

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Castle may become study centre

Llangoed Castle, one of the principal creations of the late Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, the architect who designed the Italianate Portmeirion village in Gwynedd, is on the brink of being purchased by a London-based company, Millenium, which plans to use the house as a centre for the arts and sciences and for conferences.

Llangoed stands between Brecon and Builth Wells, Powys. There has been concern about the state of decay of the property, which has not been lived in by its owner, Mr Gerald Chichester, for some ten years. Mr Chichester was refused permission by Brecknock Borough Council to demolish the house because it is a listed property.

Mr Hugh Berger, a director of Millenium, said restoration might cost more than £400,000.

Bergman illness report denied



Reports that Miss Ingrid Bergman, the actress, was gravely ill in London with a fresh outbreak of cancer were denied last night (Derek Bremner writes).

A reliable source said: "She is really okay". Miss Bergman, who is 66, had two mastectomies, in 1974 and 1979.

■ In New York yesterday a spokesman for Miss Bergman's agent said the actress had spent a short time in hospital "but is now back home in London and feeling better". Miss Bergman is aware of all the interest in her health and thanks everyone for their concern."

Correction

In the report on April 13 of the piece sit-in at Bathgate, the passage referring to political reaction should have read: "Mr Tam Dalyell, the local Labour MP, halted the decision as a 'very bad idea'." Mr James Sillars, the Scottish National Party chairman, predicted that other threatened Scottish workers would follow the Plessey example."

Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 28; Bahrain BD 2.600;
Belgium B Fr 100; Cyprus Cyp 7.00;
Denmark Kr 100; France Fr 7.00;
Finland Mkr 7.00; Germany DM 1.00;
Holland G 2.25; Iran IR 135; Iraq LD
1.000; Jordan LD 0.425; Kuwait KD
0.500; Lebanon L 4.00; Luxembourg
Lfr 1.00; Libya Es 75; Morocco Dir 7; Norway Kr 7.50; Oman
Dir 100; Qatar QR 50; Saudi Arabia
SR 4.00; Singapore S 10.00; Spain Pes
50; Sweden SEK 100; Switzerland Frs 3.00; Syria LBP 50; Tunisia Dir 7.00;
Yugoslavia Dinar 50.

Labour moves to expel 'rebel' Mellish

By Richard Evans

Moves that could lead to the expulsion from the Labour Party of Mr Robert Mellish, MP for Southwark, Bermondsey, were set in motion yesterday after his decision to back independent candidates in next month's local government elections.

Last night Mr David Hughes, Labour's national agent, was considering evidence provided by Bermondsey's constituency party after the disclosure in *The Times* that Mr Mellish is backing three independents who are standing against official Labour candidates in the Riverside ward of Southwark, south-east London.

Mr Mellish, an MP for 36 years and a former Labour Chief Whip, confirmed yesterday that he encouraged Mrs Coral Newell, a Labour councillor rejected as a party candidate, to stand as an independent in the elections for Southwark borough council.

He intends to spend for Mrs Newell, Mr James Patrick and Mrs Barbara Burgess, who are standing as Independent Labour and Tenant candidates. Neither Mr Patrick nor Mrs Burgess is a member of the Labour Party.

Mr Mellish said yesterday he was backing Mrs Newell because "the three official Labour candidates are a load of rubbish". He added: "They were selected at a ward meeting in a manner I consider was disgraceful. The meeting was packed with squatters."

"If I had not decided to give support to people like her I would have been held in contempt by local Bermondsey people. I do not care what Bermondsey Labour Party thinks, says or does."

A leaflet distributed to electors backing the three independents quotes Mr Mellish as giving them his

Scots want wider use of Gaelic, survey says

By Jonathan Wills

If the Scots had their way the Gaelic language would be officially recognized or more widely used in schools, public life and broadcasting. That is the main conclusion of a study carried out for An Comunn Gaidhealach, the Gaelic society by Mr Kenneth MacKinnon and published in England yesterday by Hatfield Polytechnic, in Hertfordshire.

In a questionnaire completed by 1,117 people, Mr MacKinnon found that even in lowland areas more than half of his sample favoured official recognition for the language. The proportion rose to 82 per cent in the Western Isles, and the national figure for Scotland was 54 per cent.

Overwhelming support for Gaelic as part of the school curriculum came from the Gaelic-speaking areas, and nationally 70 per cent of respondents were in favour.

There appears to be less unanimity over Gaelic radio and television programmes.

Support for more air-time was high in the Western Isles, where the BBC's Gaelic language radio programmes have a big following, but fewer than half of the lowlanders thought Gaelic broadcasting should be increased.

Significantly perhaps the former Scandinavian islands of Orkney and Shetland are not mentioned in the survey. In the far north there has been some movement towards having Gaelic programmes beamed at an area that mostly speaks lowland dialects.

Gaelic enthusiasts who have recently been defacing English language road signs in Scotland will find some encouragement from the survey. Only a fifth of the Scots are against bilingual road signs, although there is no evidence of support for the actions of the spray-can vandals.

Finish on the day. In the Geller (USSR) v Andersson (Sweden) contest each player was battling against isolated central pawns.

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Exergy: 24 hours
that made a universe

The Staff of "Nature"
the world is concerned
about shortage of energy,
but really it should be
energy, not energy, that
concerns us. Exergy is
what can be used
to do work. Plants need
energy to live. Plants need
time to grow. Our energy
comes from the Sun. It is
trapped in oil, gas and
water. Where did the Sun get it?

The problem is that the
early universe had no
energy at all. The universe
was then uniformly hot
with no differences from
part to another. With
thermal differences, no
work could be done by one
part of the universe on
another because heat en-
ergy cannot function with-
out a difference in temper-
ature somewhere in the
universe.

A group of Swedish
researchers now point out
the way the universe
used energy, through
which life became possible.

Energy was created
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Previously the union's
policy had been to leave the
decision to individual teach-
ers. The NUT motion de-
clares opposition to corporal
punishment in all schools
and welcomes the fact that
the Labour and Liberal
parties and the TUC are on
record as opposing it.

Mr Thomas Scott, edu-
cation secretary of the So-
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Physical Punishment, wel-
comes the decision and
added: "We do feel it is
time for this union to give a
lead in this very important
matter and say without
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"It is ineffective and it is
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He added that it was wrong
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Mr Michael Morris, from
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Delegates at the annual
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Delegates agreed to strength-
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and counselling" to assaulted
teachers by calling on them to
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Britain's teachers are split over the cane

By Richard Garner and Bert Lodge of "The Times Educational Supplement"

Britain's two principal teaching unions took different roads yesterday on the future of the cane in schools. The National Union of Teachers, the biggest union, decided to campaign for the abolition of corporal punishment, while the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers insisted on the support of the union to obtain for them the kind of resources and more acceptable sanctions they need.

"You are abdicating your real responsibilities if you go just for the principle and not for the resources," said Mr Peter Griffin, the junior vice-president. "To pass this motion as it stands is to leave a very substantial number of your colleagues without the proper support of the union to obtain for them the kind of resources and more acceptable sanctions they need."

The 235,000-member NUT voted by a decisive majority for abolition at its annual conference in Scarborough, becoming the first teachers' union in the country to take such a stand.

Mr John Gunner, from Winchester, proposing the motion, said: "We do feel it is time for this union to give a lead in this very important matter and say without equivocation that corporal punishment in our schools is an anachronism."

"It is ineffective and it is admitting our failure. It is abandoning our culture. It is long overdue."

He added that it was wrong to argue that corporal punishment was a deterrent, saying: "Any glance at a punishment book will reveal the same names occurring again and again and again."

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Delegates agreed to strengthen a motion calling on local authorities to give "support and counselling" to assaulted teachers by calling on them to prosecute assailants as well.

Parliament's unfinished business: 4

New clauses to the Finance Bill

By Frances Williams

This year's Finance Bill, with 139 clauses and 17 schedules, is one of the longest and most complicated ever to be brought before the House of Commons. It will certainly be even longer by the time it emerges from its parliamentary mauling.

The Government is already committed to adding several more clauses which could not be drafted in time for the Bill's publication. Scrutiny in committee of the minutiae of the Bill, which begins next week, will undoubtedly produce more.

Even so, this enormous Bill, like all Finance Bills, covers only one aspect of the Budget, the detailed tax proposals.

Because much of it is devoted to technical amendments to tax legislation, political interest is likely to centre on a few key clauses.

One of them implements the Chancellor's decision to raise income tax allowances and bands by 14 per cent, 2 per cent more than required to compensate for inflation last year but not enough to compensate for his failure to raise them a year ago.

The Opposition wants to increase the allowances by 28 per cent, twice Sir Geoffrey Howe's figure, to restore

the principle, though not the detailed drafting, has been welcomed in the City and elsewhere because it stops people paying tax on paper profits from selling assets.

But in practice, because the first few thousand pounds of capital gains are exempt from tax anyway, the measure is likely to benefit only those with portfolios worth more than £100,000.

The proposals, coupled with the decision to sell indexed gilts to the public, raise wider questions too about the extension of inde-

pendence to 1980.

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After completing the report stage and third reading in the Commons, the Bill will formally go to the House of Lords, providing an occasion for a general debate on the economy, since peers are not allowed to amend money Bills. Despite the cramped timetable, the Finance Bill is never guillotined.

Concluded

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FALKLANDS CRISIS

Honest broker Haig heads for grilling

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, April 15

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, left Washington today for Buenos Aires in a further attempt to defuse what he has described as an "exceptionally difficult and exceptionally dangerous" situation.

Mr Haig was taking with him some "new ideas" for resolving the Falkland Islands crisis which he had developed as a result of his talks in London on Tuesday and during a telephone call with Buenos Aires yesterday.

Officials have remained silent about the content of the revised settlement plan because of the extremely delicate stage the negotiations have reached. However, it is believed Mr Haig's ideas involve a revised formula for sharing sovereignty or administration over the islands.

It is possible that Mr Haig may fly on to London if his talks in Buenos Aires make progress. It was expected that Mr Haig would be questioned by the Argentines about Washington reports of American military cooperation with Britain although officials insisted that these reports had not damaged Mr Haig's role as an "honest broker".

Mr Haig broached this issue in a statement last night when he said that the United States was maintaining its military links with Britain but had rejected requests that "would go beyond the scope of customary patterns of cooperation based on existing bilateral agreements."

The sharing of intelligence information between Britain and the United States and the use of British of American facilities on Ascension Island are covered by agreements in force.

Mr Haig's statement was designed not only to reassure the Argentines that he was still trying to adopt a middle position but also to deflect growing criticism in the United States over the Ad-



Occupation: Heavily armed Argentine troops crowd civilians off the Port Stanley streets.

South American analysis

Memories of war dictate reaction

By Peter Strafford

The pattern of support for Argentina in the Falklands dispute reflects rivalries and alignments in South America. Most, if not all, Latin American countries back Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the islands, but their reactions to the invasion have varied widely.

Two of the countries which have been most clear in their support for Argentina, Peru and Bolivia, have sound historical reasons for their attitude. Both of them were defeated by Chile in the War of the Pacific just over 100 years ago, and since Chile is often at odds with Argentina, they have tended to side with Buenos Aires.

Memories of the war still rankle, particularly in Bolivia, which lost a strip of territory giving it access to the cultivated friendship with La Paz, which means that Chile has taken account of a second front in the north in any conflict with Argentina.

In recent years there have been close relations between the armed forces of Argentina and Peru, which have continued despite the election of a civilian Government in Lima. In Bolivia, Argentines were widely thought to be behind the coup that prevented a return of democracy in 1980.

There were strong denials yesterday from Lima, however, of reports that Peruvian aircraft had been flown to Comodoro Rivadavia, a port in southern Argentina, as a gesture of active support. The reports, which appeared in Buenos Aires, spoke of six Mirage fighters.

Peruvian diplomats said that Peru wanted a peaceful settlement to the dispute. They pointed out that Peru had proposed a 72-hour truce in order to bring about a settlement, and the sending of an international peace force.

For Chile, the Falklands dispute has a very different complexion because of its quarrel with Argentina over three islands in the Beagle Channel. Seen from Santiago, the seizure of the Falklands looks very like the Argentinian threat to go to war over the Beagle Channel in 1978, which was only averted

by a further poll, conducted by Opinion Research Centre for London Weekend Television's *Weekend World* last weekend, showed general support for the Government's approach but also a repugnance at the loss of life it might entail. When asked if they supported diplomatic means backed by force, 61 per cent said they strongly supported it, and 18 per cent said their support was "quite strong".

Mr William Harding, the British Ambassador, discussed the possibility with Senhor Baena Soares, the permanent head of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, but said he had not presented any official request. He added that he had merely been sounding out the Brazilians on the matter.

On Tuesday, Mr Harding handed Senhor Ramiro Saravia Guerreiro, the Brazilian Foreign Minister, a message from Mrs Margaret Thatcher, asking Brazil to use its influence to persuade Argentina to evacuate the Falkland Islands. He also saw the head of Brazil's intelligence service, General Meireles.

Mr Harding denied reports that Britain envisaged suspending its technical assistance to the Brazilian Navy if Brazil supported Argentina in the Falklands crisis.

Simple soldier holds key to war or peace

From Christopher Thomas
Buenos Aires, April 15

Lieutenant-General Leopoldo Fortunato Galtieri is a chain-smoking scotch drinker and self-proclaimed man of action, with little instinct for political subtleties. It is he, more than anybody, who now holds the key to peace or war between Britain and Argentina.

If the whispers are to be believed, Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, finds it difficult to deal with the Argentine President, a man of black and white views and unpredictable decisiveness. The problem is partly President Galtieri's apparent inability to appreciate the nuances of diplomacy and political bargaining, and partly the undermining of his authority by intense jealousies and infighting among the generals and admirals who run the country.

The belief among people close to the Argentine political scene is that Senor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the civilian Foreign Minister, who has a distinguished diplomatic background from earlier elected governments, was excluded from close involvement in the Falklands invasion plans. Judging from the exceptionally moderate

tones he has adopted throughout the crisis, compared with the shrill jingoism of General Galtieri, it is fair assumption that he would have counselled against the war.

His non-involvement possibly accounts for the astonishing miscalculation by the junta of the likely world reaction. It may also account for the embarrassing failure to anticipate the lack of definitive support from the Soviet Union at the United Nations Security Council.

General Galtieri, aged 55, an imposing man of more than six feet, is a soldier's soldier, a man who jokes, swears and drinks with the best. He is enormously popular with his juniors. His court popularity, and wants to be seen as a politician as well as a soldier.

On February 12, for example, he invited 1,500 government officials to the small town of Victoria in La Pampa province, in central Argentina, to celebrate its centenary. He also invited 10,000 townsfolk, who happily consumed 11,000 quarts of wine, 2,500 pounds of beef, 2,500 sausages, 6,600 rounds of bread and several hundred boxes of tomatoes. It was a populist gesture, even though he made them

to the peak of his career — his close involvement in the vicious, relentless and successful anti-terrorist campaign.

To this day somewhere between 6,000 and 15,000 people are missing, and no amount of international pressure has succeeded in uncovering their whereabouts. On the few occasions when the general has talked of the disappearances, it has been to defend vigorously the military's actions.

He took his oath of office three days before last Christmas, after dismissing his predecessor and former friend, General Roberto Viola, whose indecisiveness and poor health steadily eroded his authority.

General Galtieri, a former combat engineer, has retained the post of Commander-in-Chief of the Army, at least until his scheduled retirement from the military at the end of the year. His presidential term ends in March, 1984.

He was born on July 15, 1926 into a working-class family at Caseros, outside Buenos Aires. After studying civil engineering at the Argentine Military Academy, he moved steadily through the ranks, and in the mid-1970s reached what he calls

OVERSEAS

Killers of Sadat executed at dawn

From Our Correspondent
Cairo, April 15

Five self-proclaimed Muslim fundamentalists convicted of assassinating President Sadat of Egypt were executed at dawn today, hours after their plea for mercy had been rejected by President Mubarak.

The two assassins "who had been in" the Army were executed by firing squad and the others, civilians, were hanged at a remote military base outside Cairo, military and legal sources said. This brought to 13 the number of Muslim fundamentalists executed for violent crime in the past eight years.

News of the executions was carried briefly on Cairo radio, then dropped from subsequent broadcasts. The evening newspaper did the same, an indication that the authorities may be sensitive to possible public reaction.

Military sources said Lieutenant Khaled Shawki al-Islambouly, who admitted leading the attack on Sadat in October last year and Husein Abbas Muhammed, a reservist, were shot at 0530 local time. "Islamabouly was calm and controlled, asked to pray and was allowed to do so, but Abbas was nervous and wanted to get it over and done with," Blindsight, they were shot by a 10-man squad.

The civilians were reported to have been calm — one asked to pray another asked that his debts be paid, and the third requested to write to his family.

Military officials said families of all five were informed of the rejection of the mercy appeals and were allowed to spend Wednesday with the men. The families were not informed of the time of the executions.

Officials said Mr Mubarak also turned down appeals from 17 other defendants found guilty in the assassination. They have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from five years to life.

Violent crimes committed by self-proclaimed Muslim fanatics have been committed in Egypt since 1974, when a group led an attack on a military academy. Three people were hanged for that offence. In 1977 a group kidnapped and shot dead a former cabinet minister in charge of religious affairs. Five were hanged.

Sociologists who have followed the increase of Muslim fundamentalists say the Islamic revival aims at replacing the secular regime with a religious one because they oppose what they perceive to be Western permissiveness permeating the traditional society here.

They have rapidly made converts, mainly because of the growing disparity between rich and poor. Now the veil and long flowing robes are more popular among women on the streets of Cairo, and the number of bearded men — a sign of Muslim puritanical tendencies — has also increased.

Stoessel is optimistic over Sinai

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, April 15

There are growing indications that Israel is planning to press ahead with its final evacuation of Sinai on April 25 as scheduled, despite last minute difficulties and pressure from political opponents.

According to an embassy spokesman, Sadr Faisal Navarro, the Nicaraguan Ambassador, yesterday called on Mr Thomas Enders, Assistant Secretary of State for inter-American affairs, and said that his country was ready to initiate serious talks on the "basis of just and reasonable proposals".

According to an embassy spokesman, Sadr Faisal Navarro said that Nicaragua had no objection to discussing the United States eight-point proposals put to it on April 8. The date, site and level of representation at the negotiations had yet to be decided.

The Ambassador also said that Nicaragua supported fully Mexico's proposal of February which advocated the conclusion of non-aggression pacts between the United States and Nicaragua and between Nicaragua and its neighbours.

The Mexican proposals were "the most

Indian opposition in disarray

Charan Singh cuts 'retirement' short

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, April 15

The bulk of the fragmented and quarrelling opposition parties in India find themselves a laughing stock today, a gift to Mrs Indira Gandhi, in view of the important elections in four states next month.

At a time when the Opposition has been talking of forming a united front, it is more splintered and confused than ever, in the wake of the much-publicized "retirement" of Mr Charan Singh, who was caretaker Premier for a month at the end of the period of Janata Party rule in 1977-79.

Mr Singh, who is 79 heads the Lok Dal, or Masses Party, which draws much of its support from farmers. No one took him seriously when he retired recently, and talked of going to the banks of the Ganges to meditate, pausing only to sack three of the party's leading figures.

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Mrs Gandhi has always felt nervous about the opposition. She says the only thing her leaders agree on is their dislike of her. But unity is a long way off, and opposition is at a low ebb.

The most recent attempt at a merger between Lok Dal, Janata, and one of the prime ministerial home after she had addressed a meeting of supporters of her late husband, Mr Sanjay Gandhi, who now feel neglected.

Most of the non-communist parties have now economic or social programmes, no philosophy, and are led by old men with small followings who are not much more than names in newspapers. Mrs Nirmal Singh, editor of the Indian Express, wrote today that the parties are "unprincipled conglomerations of self-seeking men and women".

The only non-communist party with any following are Lok Dal and the BJP, a middle class, right-of-centre, Hindu nationalist party, focused two years ago out of the Jan Sangh, a component of the Janata rule which split, and paved the way to Mrs Gandhi's triumph in 1980.

Although the opposition groups will be seeking alliances for electoral gain in the coming elections, there is no doubt that they have been damaged, to Mrs Gandhi's advantage. Her Indira Congress Party is now strongest, in selling the monthly magazine, they owned to supporters of the BJP party.

The dust is settling after the unseemly squabble and expulsion, but Maneka is now seen as something of a wild card. She cannot damage Mrs Gandhi, who is well entrenched, and she has no political standing or philosophy, and hardly any experience.

What she has is a famous name, and the ability to evoke her husband's memory. She could conceivably be a focus for discontent, and a future danger to the political career of her brother-in-law, Rajiv, who is now his mother's ombudsman and assistant. It is widely assumed that he is being prepared for greater responsibilities.

Nicaragua ready to start peace talks with US

From Mohsin Ali, Washington, April 15

Nicaragua has told the United States that they should begin negotiations in Mexico to ease the bitter tensions between them arising mainly from the civil war in El Salvador.

Sadr Francisco Filalo Navarro, the Nicaraguan Ambassador, yesterday called on Mr Thomas Enders, Assistant Secretary of State for inter-American affairs, and said that his country was ready to initiate serious talks on the "basis of just and reasonable proposals".

According to an embassy spokesman, Sadr Faisal Navarro said that Nicaragua had no objection to discussing the United States eight-point proposals put to it on April 8. The date, site and level of representation at the negotiations had yet to be decided.

The Ambassador also said that Nicaragua supported fully Mexico's proposal of February which advocated the conclusion of non-aggression pacts between the United States and Nicaragua and between Nicaragua and its neighbours. The Mexican proposals were "the most

optimistic for a good outcome".

Meanwhile, Mr Ariel Sharon, the Israeli Defence Minister, was holding talks in Cairo with President Mubarak and Mr Kamel Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister. Later, senior Egyptian sources once expressed optimism that the withdrawal would take place as initially agreed at Camp David.

Tonight Mr Sharon arrived again in Jerusalem and went straight to Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, to report on the outcome of his negotiations.

Mr Stoessel was speaking to reporters after more than two hours of talks with Mr Begin, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister.

Over the past 24 hours, officials close to Mr Begin have been at pains to play down suggestions that Israel might be planning to delay its handover of the remaining third of occupied Sinai.

Under the package deal, the United States would resume aid to Nicaragua.

PILOT TELLS OF COUP PLOT HIJACK

By Our Foreign Staff
Victoria, Seychelles, April 15. — An Air India pilot told how gunmen forced him under threat of death to fly his Boeing 727 from Seychelles airport while a battle raged around the terminal.

Captain Umar Sarker, 36, was testifying before a criminal hearing evidence for the trial in South Africa of 43 mercenaries alleged to have hijacked his aircraft after a coup attempt.

Captain Sarker said that on landing he was confronted by 10 to 15 gunmen, one of whom said: "Well, gentlemen, you have landed in the middle of a revolution. If you cooperate with us, you will not be harmed. If you try to double-cross us, we'll shoot you one by one and blow up the aircraft."

The pilot said he had to fly to Durban, with the gunmen, in a move.

President Ronald Reagan proposed a comprehensive tax credit for children attending religious schools in a move.

In Nairobi, Ugandan army units were reported to have killed more than 20 people in an anti-guerrilla operation outside Nairobi yesterday.

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Delhi, April 15

Warsaw faculty protests over ousting of rector

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, April 15

University lecturers in Warsaw are refusing to cooperate with the authorities in their search for three deputy heads of the university, the largest and most influential in Poland. As a result, the administration of the university has nearly ground to a standstill at a time when several thousand students are resuming their studies after the Easter break.

The protest, a senior explained, was aimed against the "ousting" of Professor Henryk Samsonowicz as Rector of the University. Dr Samsonowicz, a liberal reformer popular with the students, was recently dismissed from his post — or had his resignation "accepted" in the official formulation. He was replaced by a little-known academic, Professor Kazimierz Albin Dobrowski, who is more sympathetic at the martial law authorities. Academics and reform-oriented intellectuals have viewed this as a tightening of policy in the Polish leadership and a move that might augur a purge of university staff.

But the main fear seems to be about the effect on the students. Today, hundreds of students interrupted their studies for a quarter of an hour to sign a petition protesting against the dismissal of Dr Samsonowicz, a medieval historian. Fourteen deans — heads of department — have also signed the petition and scores of lecturers have been signing a similar document, all directed at the Minister of higher Education.

Dr Samsonowicz has not been answering his telephone, and it is assumed that he has gone on holiday. His dismissal has made lecturing staff nervous about academic freedom. Dr Samsonowicz was democratically elected by staff and students, in line with a liberal Bill on higher education. The martial law authorities have promised to pass the Bill, but the dismissal — as today's petition

made it clear — has undermined this hope.

A senior academic said today: "There are about 25 staff and students interned at the moment. In the past we could try to help them, both to live and to continue their studies. Those interned staff who have been released have been given their jobs back thanks to Dr Samsonowicz's support. Will this continue?"

The broader effect of the dismissal has been to give the impression that the so-called hard-liners — tougher ideologically oriented party leaders — have the upper hand in the continuing struggle.

A plenary session of the Communist Party's Central Committee — only the second since martial law was imposed — is due to be held next Thursday and this should chart more clearly what elements are dominating party discussion.

The last Poliburo meeting — and the official press today — emphasised the notion of a new "front of national" understanding. This is the idea of broadening the base of party support in the country by incorporating other satellite parties — the Democratic Party and the United Peasant Party — more explicitly into government. "Social forces" including trade unions would form a second tier, a non-political one, that would discuss with the ruling Communist and other parties vital issues. This is the view pushed for some time by those around General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, but finds only limited support among the tougher ideologists who dismiss the concept of even a tentative form of power sharing.

Their experience is that the Communist Party lost most of its support at a time when the now suspended Solidarity trade union was actively discussing an albeit far, more radical form of "power sharing".

Photograph, page 8

Queen cuts Canada's last colonial shackle

From Michael Hamlyn
Ottawa, April 15

The Queen arrives in Ottawa today to proclaim, as Queen of Canada the new Constitution, and to witness the striking off of the final colonial shackle linking the country to Britain.

Ottawa is decked with flags — the Union Jack, the Maple Leaf and the flag of the 10 provinces, and the weather has seemed to celebrate too, with the first warm days of the year finally melting ancient heaps of snow.

Not everyone is happy about the patriation of the constitution of course. The Government of the province of Quebec, whose veto was overridden when the courts ruled that the consent of the provinces was not legally necessary, is boycotting the ceremony here. It has ordered Lieutenant Governor Jean-Pierre Cote not to attend either.

A protest march around Montreal is planned on Saturday to coincide with the proclamation on Parliament Hill. The Indians of British Columbia and Manitoba are not too pleased either, claiming that the new Constitution does not do enough for native rights, and does not protect the old Indian treaties.

Indian leaders have been warned that they will be regarded as untrue to the native cause if they participate in the celebrations.

Nine of the 10 provinces finally signed an accord of the charter for rights to be included in the Constitution. Only Quebec held out.

Quebec's legal challenge goes on, and the Constitution faces a severe test when, as is bound to happen shortly, Quebec's education laws are examined against the charter. The charter protects minority rights but Quebec insists, for example, that all children are taught in French schools unless one parent was taught in a Quebec English school.

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Bonn pledges arms support to US

From Patricia Clough, April 15

West Germany today formally committed itself to provide strong logistical support to enable the United States roughly to double its military strength here at short notice in times of crisis.

West Germany promised to provide logistical support to enable the United States to ship out six armoured, mechanized and infantry divisions within 10 days to reinforce the four already stationed here.

It will train and equip 93,000 reserves to provide transport, supplies and protection to the troops while here and to man airfields.

The West Germans are also expected to provide and guard huge arms depots, stores and other installations so that all the necessary equipment is waiting from the troops when they arrive. They will set up special "equipment units" composed of 1,200 military men and 600 civilians to look after it.

"With this agreement we are strengthening the deterrent in Central Europe in what is a decisive area for the alliance", Herr Genscher said.

"This is in the German interest as well as in that of the alliance. With it we are marking a contribution to maintaining the balance of power."

Peace team fails to end Gulf war

Kuwait, April 15. — A four-member non-aligned peace team has failed in its latest attempt to end the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq.

One member of the group said:

"The committee, which returned to Kuwait last night after visiting Tehran and Baghdad, had been unable to reconcile conflicting demands by the warring nations; the man who declined to be named added:

"Iran had reaffirmed its demand that Iraqi troops should withdraw from its territory before it would hold talks."

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq suggested on Sunday in Parliament that he might be willing to pull out his forces if Iran guaranteed not to encroach on Iraqi territory or water.

The committee, set up in February last year, comprises the foreign ministers of Cuba, India and Zambia and Mr Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the political department of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Peace efforts by the Islamic Conference Organization had been expected to resume soon.

Mr Habib El Amri, its secretary-general, said last week that an Islamic peace mission planned to visit Baghdad and Tehran towards the end of this month. — Reuter.

■ Tehran: Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader, said here today that young women who had lost their husbands as "martyrs" in the Iraqi war should remarry in accordance with "divine tradition".

He could not confirm that 15,000 political prisoners were being released.

He said that those who were able to "lead healthy lives" in Islamic society would be set free.

Asked how Western correspondents could be expected to tell the truth if they were not allowed to leave the minister replied that reporters had "repeatedly told us" even when they were invited into the country. This was not only a matter of untruths, but also of "clever reordering" and selection of news "in the interests of Zionism and imperialism" as coverage of the Gulf War had shown.

Asked about reports of a Soviet incursion into northern Iran earlier this month, the minister acknowledged that Soviet and Afghan troops had crossed the border, but said it had been an "error" for which the Soviet Union had "immediately apologized".

He did not refer to reports from Islamabad at the time of the incident that 50 Afghan mujahidin ("holy" warriors)

pursued by the Soviet troops had been killed on Iranian soil, a matter of some embarrassment to Tehran in view of its support for the Afghan insurgents.

On the question of Iran's strategy after its recent victories against Iraq, Hojatoleslam Moadikhan said that it was not the business of the Iranian leadership to bring down the Baghdad regime.

President Saddam Hussein.

The Iraqi leader no longer had "the capability to win the war", but it was up to the Iraqi people to decide his fate: "If they want to keep

them they will, if not, not".

On internal matters, the minister refused to comment on a report in *The Times* that 8,000 members of the regime, mostly belonging to the left-wing Mujahedin Khalq, had been executed in the past three months, beyond saying that the Mujahedin were responsible for "hideous crimes worse than terrorism anywhere else".

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On the question of Iran's strategy after its recent victories against Iraq, Hojatoleslam Moadikhan said that it was not the business of the Iranian leadership to bring down the Baghdad regime.

President Saddam Hussein.

The Iraqi leader no longer had "the capability to win the war", but it was up to the Iraqi people to decide his fate: "If they want to keep

them they will, if not, not".

On internal matters, the minister refused to comment on a report in *The Times* that 8,000 members of the regime, mostly belonging to the left-wing Mujahedin Khalq, had been executed in the past three months, beyond saying that the Mujahedin were responsible for "hideous crimes worse than terrorism anywhere else".

He could not confirm that 15,000 political prisoners were being released.

He said that those who were able to "lead healthy lives" in Islamic society would be set free.

Asked about reports of a Soviet incursion into northern Iran earlier this month, the minister acknowledged that Soviet and Afghan

troops had crossed the border, but said it had been an "error" for which the Soviet Union had "immediately apologized".

He did not refer to reports from Islamabad at the time of the incident that 50 Afghan mujahidin ("holy" warriors)

had been killed on Iranian soil, a matter of some embarrassment to Tehran in view of its support for the Afghan insurgents.

On the question of Iran's strategy after its recent victories against Iraq, Ho

Melvyn Westlake on the maritime battle in New York that could have longer lasting consequences than the Falklands crisis

Will Reagan take the law of the sea into his own hands?

Events in the Falklands have focused attention on the potential for conflict where mineral wealth is found on or under the seabed. They have also served as a reminder that Britain is still a major maritime nation which will gain from clear new laws governing the sea routes.

Yet while the South Atlantic occupies world attention, desperate diplomacy is needed in New York to prevent the Law of the Sea Conference from being scuppered. The threat to the conference has come just when years of painstaking negotiations by 150 countries had appeared to be moving towards a successful conclusion.

If the conference is a failure there is a danger that we will soon witness the biggest car-up of the earth's treasures since the scramble by European powers for black Africa in the second half of the nineteenth century. Oceans might then effectively be staked out by a handful of rich and technologically advanced nations, with the aim of securing a claim to the vast storehouse of strategic metals that lie on the deep sea bed.

The prospect of such a car-up has been brought very much closer since President Reagan took office in the United States and ordered a review of the draft convention so laboriously negotiated at the Law of the Sea Conference during the preceding seven years.

The result of this review is a substantial book of amendments, most of which are rejected by the Third World nations. There is now a very real danger that if the United States presses these amendments, the whole delicately balanced package of interlocking agreements, which form the backbone of the draft convention, will start falling apart.

If the convention is ever concluded it will represent the largest body of international law ever established, covering not only seabed mining, but marine navi-

gation, sovereign rights over continental shelves, exclusive economic zones up to 200 miles from shore, and sea pollution control.

The danger that the whole convention might come unravelled does not appear to be worrying Washington. However, American officials are concerned that the United States should not appear to be standing out against the rest of the world. If the Americans alone are responsible for the collapse of the Law of the Sea Conference, Moscow would score a propaganda coup by putting them in the dock of world opinion as rapacious spoilers.

That is why the Reagan Administration has been lobbying so hard to get Britain, West Germany and some other countries to join in, and why some voices in Britain can be heard urging the Government to throw in its lot with the Americans.

Mr James Malone, the United States chief negotiator, came to London just before the start of the latest session of the Law of the Sea Conference, which is due to run until April 30, and argued his country's case before an audience at Chatham House.

Even those western countries that sympathise with the American position have been embarrassed by the naked self-interest that the Reagan Administration is displaying and by its heavy-handed tactics.

Britain is in a bind. Like the United States it is worried that the West may have given away too much to the Third World nations over seabed mining, and that burdensome international restrictions will be imposed on its mining activities.

North Sea oil installations also make it important to get agreement over continental shelves.

Yet a Law of the Sea Convention without the United States would probably be a blunt instrument. One alternative is for the key industrial nations — the so-

called "like-minded states" — to formulate a mini-treaty of their own.

These countries are the United States, Britain, West Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Japan. Several of them have now passed domestic legislation to regulate and license exploration and commercial recovery of hard minerals from the ocean floor by their own citizens. Almost unnoticed, Britain has passed a Deep Sea Mining (Temporary Provisions) Act, supposedly to provide a legal framework for our mining companies until the Law of the Sea Convention comes into effect in the late 1980s.

These national pieces of legislation all have reciprocal arrangements recognizing one another's claims, and have all the appearance of coordination. So, if the Law of the Sea Conference collapses, the way would be clear for a Klondyke-style rush.

Sea consortia have already been formed. Most are led by American companies, although one is chiefly French, and another mostly Japanese. Shell, BP, Rio Tinto Zinc and Consolidated Gold Fields are among the British companies that have joined international consortia.

Their quest is for the potato-sized nodules, lying buried in the mud of the seabed, containing 30 or 40 per cent manganese and very much smaller quantities of copper, nickel and cobalt.

The major industrial countries are all dependent to a greater or lesser degree on imports of those minerals which are found in seabed nodules. The US imports more than 95 per cent of its supplies of cobalt and manganese, which are used in the production of high-grade steel, frequently with military application. As the nodules are often found at a depth of three miles, only a few countries have the necessary technology to mine them, employing, for example, deep sea Hoovers — a technique enlivened to



INGRAM PRIN

sucking up peanuts through a piece of macaroni from the top of the Empire State Building.

The situation over seabed mining has all the characteristics of a classic struggle between the world's rich and poor nations. Some poor countries have made no secret of their belief that it represents a major test of their crusade for a "new international economic order".

Their view is that the seabed beyond the limits of present national jurisdiction is man's "common heritage" and has now become largely accepted as a legal concept.

But this leaves open the question of how seabed minerals can be exploited in a way that is fair to all, when only a few countries are in a position to undertake mining operations.

The formula used is that proposed by Dr Henry Kissinger when he was US Secretary of State: what became known as the "parallel system".

Under the draft convention an International Seabed Authority would be set up to control all seabed mining. This authority would conduct its own mining operations through an organization

called the "Enterprise", on behalf of all nations. It would also license and regulate private ventures.

Private companies would put up to the Authority an area of the seabed they regarded as having commercial possibilities.

Half of this would then be worked by the private contractor and half by the Enterprise.

Apart from the Enterprise, which would be based in Jamaica, the Authority would have several other specialized organs, including an International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea, based in Hamburg.

To prevent the Enter-

A few home truths from the South Atlantic

David Watt

however appalling their particular violations of human rights, and however gross their mismanagement of a potentially magnificent country, represent what has been an extremely familiar local phenomenon for a century and a half and has, at ordinary times, very little international importance or capacity for mischief.

Protecting our interest is one thing, but launching a moral crusade against juntas in South America is quite another. One might as well try to extirpate sex from Bangkok.

At the same time it is wildly sentimental to suppose that on the Falklands issue the junta does not have "democratic" support. Mr Peregrine Worsthorne remarked the other day that the British people want gunboats; unfortunately the Argentine people want the islands. The Church, the trade unions, the intelligentsia, the media are all utterly convinced that the Malvinas belong rightly to the Argentine and had there been a non-military and supposedly democratic government in power in Buenos Aires at present the same coup might equally well have taken place without the slightest restraint from the democratic process.

If it had, then negotiations

would have been quite as difficult (indeed more so, since the good offices of the United States would have been less effective) and military confrontation quite as likely.

(2) "It is not worth going to war to save Mrs Thatcher's face". If it were only Mrs Thatcher's face, we were trying to save, this Left-wing cry might be true. But it is not. Naturally this Government has a burning interest in its own survival and had it not taken forceful action it might well have fallen. But it is not simply Mrs Thatcher's credibility but the country's that is at issue.

"Credibility" is of course a hard concept to pin down and is an unfashionable one these days in any case. But the fact

remains that the protection of British interests in a very uncertain and unstable world depends considerably on exploiting our past reputation for (a) relative honesty; (b) skill and resolution in protecting our interests; and (c) possession of real, though limited military power.

The consideration we have

received since the crisis began from the Americans (whatever their public stance), from our fellow members of the European Community, and from the

majority of Third World countries in the United Nations depends in part upon the post-Afghanistan determination of everyone to avoid giving moral encouragement to military adventurism.

But it also turns on these countries' perception of Britain as an important and on the whole benevolent European and north Atlantic power which can still make a significant contribution to peace in her own region and to a lesser extent in the wider world through her alliances and residual influence.

Little Englanders may wish to turn their backs on this role but there is a high price to be paid for doing so since the whole gamut of British economic interests overseas are intimately connected with it. In order to pursue these interests effectively, whether in Europe or outside it, it is not enough merely to have a strong competitive economy, one must also have persuasive power at the level of governments.

It is true that we have often in the past over-stretched our economy in order to maintain power and influence, which are supposed in their turn to help protect and support our economy. For this reason it

would have been absurd to maintain a large blue water fleet and amphibious commando capacity simply for the purpose of protecting the Falklands. But it is important not to go to the opposite extreme of supposing that it does not matter to the standard of living of ordinary people if Britain is no longer taken seriously.

But what does "credibility" consist of? The trouble is that the answer depends so heavily on the context. If the Chinese army had marched into Hong Kong 10 days ago the British Government would no doubt have resisted its outrage in various ways, but no armada would now be setting off for the Far East.

Similarly, if we had insisted a year ago on negotiating a lease-back agreement for the Falklands with the Argentine we should have been accused by the islanders of selling them out, but we should have lost little or nothing in international terms because the islanders' position would have been protected for a generation and British commitments and capabilities would have been brought into a much clearer and more credible balance.

The trouble in the present case is that we, a supposedly

minor power, had been outwitted by a tinpot regime on an issue where we have publicly stated our ability to prevail.

Lord Carrington's talk of a "national humiliation" was perhaps over-dramatic, but Mrs Thatcher is correct in saying that Britain's reputation is at stake.

What needs to be done to restore it? Clearly the formidable display of strength that the Navy has been able to put on is in itself restorative, since almost any negotiated settlement immediately involving a physical Argentine withdrawal can now be said to have been induced by the appearance of this fleet — whether or not any shots are fired.

This is a huge plus since it

means that it is not necessary

from the point of view of

credibility that there should be a complete restoration of the *status quo ante*.

On the other hand, in view of

everything that has been said, it is a minimum "credibility" requirement that the islanders should be free from Argentine administration for a considerable period, and that we should (and this is the real cost of the incident) maintain a military capacity in the South Atlantic sufficient to deter its imposition in future.

It goes without saying that

this is not the end of the British political argument in Britain

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since many of Mrs Thatcher's supporters take a more strident view of national honour than the international community does.

In my judgment, however, these are the least terms that are necessary if Britain is to come out of the incident with her international reputation more or less intact.

(3) "The British people are united in support of the Government". True so far as it goes, but islanders must be aware that it does not go very far. National pride has been hurt and naturally calls for vengeance. It is irresistible to many to see a large fleet sail out of Portsmouth once more. Nevertheless, Walpole's observation at the beginning of the War of Jenkins' Ear ("Now they are ringing their bells, soon they will be ringing their hands") is still apt.

Public opinion wants satisfaction at all costs and if it turns out that the cost is in fact high in men, in money or perhaps even in terms of world opinion, its patience may run out fast. The idea of a "long haul" blockade of the islands' basins through the Antarctic winter is neither politically attractive nor very plausible. The only consolation is that the patience of the Argentine public may well be even shorter than that of the British.

It goes without saying that

this is not the end of the British political argument in Britain

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the trust to stage its first national arts festival this year.

Most of the trust's own income of £25m a year goes on managing 200 residential homes, castles and historic buildings, and running its learning estates. It was decided about using its choicest resources for a series of concerts, readings and Shakespeare plays until American Express agreed to contribute.

"They are unique," says Nelly.

Old age:
can you
sleep
it off?



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THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 16 1982

الجمعة 15

AMERICA'S OTHER CRISIS

Pity Mr Stoessel, the American deputy Secretary of State, treading once more the well-trodden path between Jerusalem and Cairo. His mini-shuttle is not as arduous as the mega-shuttle being performed by his boss, Mr Haig, but the implications are no less profound, involving as they do an American attempt to salvage the peace process from a welter of emotional charge and counter-charge.

Emotion is always difficult to disentangle from politics, and impossible to disentangle in the Middle East. Deeply held religious and national beliefs clash, coalesce and clash again. The issue which surpasses all others is that of Jerusalem, possessed by the Israelis, but regarded by Muslims as their second most holy city after Mecca.

There is nothing manufactured about the wave of fury in the Muslim world following the killing of two Arabs and wounding of thirty others by an Israeli-trained soldier on Temple Mount last Sunday. The instant assumption in the Arab world that the gunman concerned was acting in complicity with the Israeli authorities is almost certainly as ludicrous as the Israelis say it is. The arrested man may have had accomplices, but that is not the same thing. The culprit was an American Jewish immigrant, connected with the kind of extreme Jewish groups rightly condemned by the majority of Israelis to the lunatic fringe.

The Temple Mount, moreover, is just as sacred to the Jews as it is to Muslims, and the outrage has shocked Israeli opinion.

Arab accusations of Israeli complicity have their roots in

a widely-held feeling that the Government of Mr Begin — even though it condemned the shooting — has itself pursued the kind of consistent expansionist anti-Arab policy which encourages extremists, willingly or unwillingly. This explains the overwhelming response on Wednesday to the call by King Khalid of Saudi Arabia for a one-day protest strike, with the attendant danger of more precipitate anti-Israeli action of the kind advocated by radical Arabs.

The Israelis can reply —

with reason, unfortunately — that there is at least as much extremism on the other side. The Palestine Liberation Organisation still refuses to recognize the right of Israel to exist, and it has not in practice renounced terrorist methods. The Israelis now complain that the PLO is harassing them not only from Lebanon but also from Jordan and Egypt, countries which have restrained Palestinian guerrilla activities in the past.

The charges against Egypt, which is alleged to have tolerated gun running by the PLO into Gaza from El Arish, on the Egyptian side of Sinai, are particularly serious, since they strike at the very heart of the bilateral treaty between Israel and Egypt achieved at Camp David.

Tension with the PLO over Gaza and Lebanon also puts in question the ceasefire engineered by the United States between Israel and the PLO last July. The ceasefire was seen by some as a possible basis for negotiations which might build on the achievement of Camp David and lead — eventually — to mutual recognition by both sides.

This leaves Mr Stoessel with the task of ensuring that the widely predicted invasion of Lebanon does not take place, and that the fragile ceasefire survives. But he also has to ensure that Israel's handing over the final portion of Sinai to Egypt goes ahead in nine days as planned. An invasion of Lebanon, on top of the recent rioting on the West Bank and Gaza, would put at risk whatever chances there are of further progress towards a comprehensive settlement. A break in relations with Egypt over Sinai would undo what has been achieved so far, in the face of centuries of hatred and mistrust.

Fortunately, there are indications that the Sinai handover will not be held up, and that talk of delay may have been a manoeuvre designed to force Egypt to stick to the letter of the peace treaty rather than heed the siren voices of the Arab world urging it to go back on Camp David. Mr Stoessel, at least, has pronounced himself relatively optimistic.

If passions can be cooled over the desecration of the Dome of the Rock, the Sinai timetable maintained, and tension reduced on the Lebanon border, the search might resume for a formula giving the Palestinians self-government on the West Bank. Those, however, are very large "ifs", whose fulfilment requires reason rather than emotion, and foresight rather than short term advantage. The presence of such qualities at Camp David helped to stitch the peace treaty together; their absence at this juncture could yet pull it apart at the seams.

'Economic duress' in labour law

From Mr A. J. P. Doyle

Sir, In your issue of April 8 you published a letter from Professor Lord Wedderburn in which he complains that as a result of the recent decision of the House of Lords in the case of the Universe Sentinel, where the doctrine of economic duress was held to apply, trade unions cannot now know when they might be guilty of a "new" wrong.

In 1978 this ship unloaded its cargo and was held up in a British port, having been blacklisted by the ITF (International Transport Workers' Federation) and by tug workers as a flag-of-convenience ship. To avoid catastrophic losses the American owners were forced to capitulate to a series of union demands for payment of retrospective wages, new contracts for the crew and so forth. In addition the union demanded and received payment by way of a contribution to its welfare fund.

Unquestionably a demand for improved wages is protected and the shipowners would have had no claim for losses resulting from union action to prevent their ships leaving port.

In the instant case, however, the shipowners took a point of principle, namely: was the demand for the contribution to the welfare fund protected? The court decided it was not. There must surely be some limit to the protection given by Parliament. Does Lord Wedderburn agree that a demand for a contribution to funds of a guerrilla organization might not be protected even if associated with a claim for improved wages?

Would he not also agree that a

claim for a contribution to the personal bank account of a union official might not be protected, or a demand for payment to the strike fund of the union itself, or another union? If some demands are not protected clearly there is some element of uncertainty.

Contrary to Lord Wedderburn's view, I suggest that the social reality is that the majority of union and non-union members alike, recognize that a line must be drawn and we look to the courts, where we find judges whose impartiality and integrity are beyond question. To suggest that in drawing a line judges, who are the authors of the common law, are antagonistic to "workers' solidarity expressed in trade union action" is, to use words used by Jeremy Bentham in another context, "nonsense on stilts".

Yours etc.,

A. J. P. DOYLE,

33 Cavendish Square, W1.
April 13.

KEEP AMBIGUITY IN DETERRENCE

Four distinguished Americans have now added their voices to the growing chorus of experts who say that Nato should rely more on conventional weapons for the defence of western Europe.

In a powerful contribution to the current issue of *Foreign Affairs* Mr McGeorge Bundy, Mr George Kennan, Mr Robert McNamara and Mr Gerard Smith, all of whom served President Kennedy, move out ahead by arguing not only for less reliance on nuclear weapons but for a declared policy of no-first-use.

They point out that any use of nuclear weapons carries a high risk of escalation into general war. Because of this and the profusion of systems on both sides it has become more difficult than ever to construct rational plans for the first use of these weapons by anyone. But the main value of a policy of no-first-use, they say, would be to the health of the western alliance. Public discussion of the possibility of limited nuclear war in Europe has had an unsettling effect, particularly in West Germany, which would be the main battleground. Therefore it is important to widen the "fire-break" between the start of conflict and the use of nuclear weapons. The only way of doing this is to build up conventional capabilities. They argue that this need not be as expensive as is generally assumed because of the arrival of modern precision-guided weapons and the weakening of the military solidarity of the Warsaw Pact. In any case, "even if careful analysis showed that the

necessary conventional posture would require funding larger than the three per cent real increase that has been the common target of recent years it would be the best bargain ever offered to the members of the alliance".

Most of their argument is very sound. Nato's strategy of relying on so-called battlefield nuclear weapons as a cheap substitute for men has been dubious ever since the Russians achieved nuclear parity and, positively, dangerous since they started to bring in new generations of theatre nuclear weapons. The strategy carries twin dangers. On the one hand there is the danger that in any conflict the Russians without also frightening their allies. To be credible they must persuade the Russians that they might really use nuclear weapons, but the moment they have done this their allies are liable to run for shelter. This is essentially a political problem. Unless the Europeans are prepared to take over responsibility for their own nuclear defence, which remains a distant possibility, the only way of lessening the problem — it cannot be removed altogether — is to build up more political trust.

The problem is that the Americans cannot frighten the Russians without also frightening their allies. To be credible they must persuade the Russians that they might really use nuclear weapons, but the moment they have done this their allies are liable to run for shelter. This is essentially a political problem. Unless the Europeans are prepared to take over responsibility for their own nuclear defence, which remains a distant possibility, the only way of lessening the problem — it cannot be removed altogether — is to build up more political trust. At the moment Europeans alternate between worrying that the United States will not defend them at all and worrying that it will defend them so well that they will all be killed in the process. Since Mr Reagan came into the White House the pendulum has swung to the latter fear. It could be helped back towards the middle by successful negotiations on arms control. Meanwhile, the conventional option should be standard usage. Humpty Dumpty may have thought that words meant what he wanted them to mean, but that is surely not an acceptable approach for a hitherto reputable work of reference?

Secondly, there is an ineluctable impoverishment of vocabulary in such an approach. To take one quoted example, "country-dweller" does not mean the same as "countryman", which it is reported to replace. It requires only a moment's thought to conclude that many countrymen live in towns, and that many country-dwellers will never become countrymen (or country-women) in a month of Sundays. What about "fellow-countrymen" (or compatriots)? They are not the same as fellow country-dwellers, even if that infelicitous phrase were to gain currency.

In short, the approach seems "misconceived" — a word with appropriate sexist bias in this instance?

Yours etc.,

RICHARD OSMOND,

The Naval Club,
38 Hill Street, W1.

April 14.

THE JURY THAT STAYED FAIR

The essence of the jury system is that it should be based as far as possible on the principle of random selection. If it strays too far from that ideal it will lose the very purpose for its existence, and its reputation and respect in the eyes of the public. In practice, of course, no jury can ever be truly representative of the community from which it is drawn. There are statutory exemptions and disqualifications. People, in certain occupations cannot serve, nor can those with a serious criminal record (the test for which is soon to be tightened so as to exclude more former criminals from becoming jurors). Disabilities or specific personal circumstances also diminish the pool of potential jurors. There are, too, those who should not sit because of their connexion with a particular case. But in spite of all these derogations it is still basically true to say that English juries that they are chosen broadly, at random.

There is one procedure, however, placed in the hands of the defence, that can severely distort the randomness principle and lead instead to utterly unrepresentative juries, picked for their apparent sympathy. Every defendant has the right to challenge three potential jurors without giving a reason. This does not matter much where there are only one or two defendants. But where there are a number, each with three challenges, the composition of a jury can be altered radically.

There has been widespread criticism of such challenging methods in a number of recent trials involving mainly black defendants. In 1977 (at a time when every defendant had seven peremptory challenges) more than 100 jurors were refused by seventeen defendants charged with various offences arising out of the Notting Hill carnival. In the trials following riots in the St Paul's area of Bristol in 1980, the twelve defendants used up thirty-five of their thirty-six challenges.

The fifteen accused in the Terry May case challenged thirty-seven jurors originally, and when the trial had to restart, twenty-six more jurors were removed before the second jury was picked. The result was that the jury consisted of five blacks, five

whites, and two Asians. It is obvious that this would not have been the balance achieved if totally random selection had applied. Yet the jury took to their lengthy and difficult task with admirable conscientiousness and reached verdicts of guilty on a large number of charges. Mr Justice Farquharson's unstinting praise of their efforts was well merited.

What the May case demonstrates, first, is that it is insidious to suggest (as, unhappily, Lord Denning did over the St Paul's trial) that black jurors will tend to acquit guilty black defendants on purely racial grounds. There is no evidence of that. Secondly, it shows that although, if there are large numbers of defendants the right to challenge can produce unrepresentative juries (though many randomly picked juries also turn out to be unrepresentative), the accused will not necessarily gain by their tactics. The case for reducing the number of challenges without cause, or even, as some would have abolished the right altogether, retaining only challenges for cause, has not been made out.

Yours truly,
MARJORIE FARGUS,
50 Graham Road,
Bushey,
Hertfordshire.
April 13.

Tree for a tankful

From Mrs Marjorie Fargus

Sir, The letter from Mr Paul Medcalf (April 12) echoes my thoughts as I was travelling from Florence to Bologna yesterday. The banks on either side of the motorway were covered with trees, shrubs and creeping plants and the central reservation had either grass, or small hedges or both. I thought how pleasant it would be if the barren wastelands we call motorways could be similarly planted.

Incidentally, all the lay-bys were spacious, with trees and shrubs, had areas of grass on which to picnic and all had a table with a thatch "sunshade" and wooden benches round it, very different from the disgusting sight of some of our lay-bys.

Yours truly,
MARJORIE FARGUS,
50 Graham Road,
Bushey,
Hertfordshire.
April 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Black cricket in South Africa

From the President of the South African Cricket Union

Sir, Misconceptions and errors perpetrated by Mr Robert Archer (March 30) cannot go unchallenged.

Mr Archer questions the motivation and sincerity of the South African Cricket Union (SACU) in its efforts to promote cricket among all races in South Africa. It should be a cause of regret to Mr Archer and all who follow cricket that my predecessor, Mr Rashid Varachia, died in office last December during his fifth term as president of the SACU. He is thus unable to answer Mr Archer's charges personally, but the track record of the SACU under Mr Varachia's direction stands as his monument and it is my intention to continue along the path set by Mr Varachia.

The SACU was established in 1977 as a non-racial controlling body. The constitution states that the union administers cricket "in such a way as to ensure participation in it of all inhabitants without distinction of colour, race or creed". This principle embodies players, administrators and spectators.

Mr Archer questions whether the SACU has mandated from white cricketers to pursue this policy and in particular to spend the sums of money necessary to raise the standards of black cricketers. The answer is that the SACU has vigorously followed this policy since its inception and some 75 per cent of money for coaching and development (approximately R500,000) is spent on what we term underprivileged areas, in essence black areas: this despite the fact that cricket is not yet as popular among the black community as it is among whites.

Mr Archer's figures of SACU membership are out of date, but it is probably correct that the ratio of white to non-white cricketers is in the region of 9:1. We in the SACU prefer, however, not to label cricketers according to race but rather to ensure equal opportunities for all cricketers. The SACU is a fully democratic organization and its policies enjoy wholehearted grass roots support. It is surely significant that Mr Varachia was elected unopposed to each of his five terms as president.

All cricketers in South Africa have access to all facilities. There are no racial barriers to membership.

ship of clubs or access to grounds under the control of the SACU.

References to the South African Government's "multinational" policy of 1976 have no relevance in 1982. The SACU operates as a fully autonomous body which does not countenance interference from any outside agency, including the Government. Whatever the policy of the Government may be, particularly in regard to schools cricket, as raised by Mr Archer, it is a fact that regular inter-schools matches involving players from all sectors of the community take place on a home-and-away basis.

A scholarship scheme has been instituted to enable talented young cricketers from underprivileged areas to attend leading schools where their talents can be developed. intensive coaching in "black" areas takes place daily throughout the cricket season.

Mr Archer questions the assertion that the more than 50 English professional cricketers who spend their winters in South Africa are working hard to improve black, and particularly schoolboy, cricket. Yet most of these professionals are employed primarily as coaches and the majority play a major role in the activities outlined above.

Mr Archer refers to "fine words" and promises that have not been fulfilled. If he were to visit South Africa, as did a delegation of member countries of the International Cricket Conference in 1979, he would see for himself just how much has been achieved. Although the primary objective of the SACU is to achieve a fair deal for all South African cricketers, rather than an end to international isolation, the ICC delegation concluded unanimously that the SACU had fulfilled all the conditions for membership set by the ICC.

Despite South Africa's continued isolation there is no dispute in cricketing circles as to the genuineness of the South African Cricket Union's efforts to eradicate racism from South African cricket.

Yours sincerely,
JOE PAMENSKY,
South African Cricket Union,
PO Box 9430,
Johannesburg 2000,
RSA.
April 5.

The Church on a collision course?

From Mr Frank Field, MP for Birkenhead (Labour)

Sir, Today (April 2) Synod publishes *Worship and Doctrine*, which is intended to help clergy and lay people understand the law governing worship in the Church of England.

This guide's publication is presumably part of the Church's response to the widespread unease over recent liturgical reforms, the way new forms of worship have been introduced, and the recent actions of Parliament which have reflected a general sense of unease about what is happening in the Church of England.

In the last session of Parliament moves were made to strengthen the position of congregations wishing to base their worship on the Prayer Book. The Secretary General of the General Synod is reported as saying that had Parliament enacted this legislation, it would have posed very great problems indeed for the Church.

It would be wrong for anyone in the Church's hierarchy to think that the disquiet surrounding the new form of service will quietly subside with the publication of Synod's new guide.

Mr Field's new guide should be welcomed. It has been argued that the disquiet of Anglican MPs is linked only to the attempt to impose a new liturgy. A careful reading of *Worship and Doctrine* shows that, far from strengthening the laity's influence in deciding the form of worship in their parish church, it has been further reduced.

More significant is the ruling on what was technically known as Series 1 and which was in fact the form of service used by most parishes in the Church of England for the greater part of this century. It is this service which most people refer to when talking about the Prayer Book and the new guide tells us that its use is now illegal. It is difficult to reconcile such an action with the public presentation of the new guide which urges "generosity" in settling disputes over whether

The Book of Common Prayer or the *Alternative Service Book* should be used.

The way the Church is conducting itself also came to the surface when the ecclesiastical committee considered the Pastoral (Amendment) Measure. The area of concern centred on the section which makes it easier for the authorities to pull down churches. The ecclesiastical committee has no power to amend a measure, only to accept or reject. Many members agreed reluctantly to the measure, but only after witnessing the most squabbled little political manoeuvre I have seen this parliament.

This brings us to the nub of the issue. The Church of England is the established Church and I wish it to remain so. But increasing the Church wants all the advantages of establishment without any of its disadvantages. It would appear that, perhaps unthinkingly, much of the hierarchy longs for the status of a sect. If it sees its future in these terms it should be honest about it. If its present behaviour continues it may sadly find itself in direct conflict with Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK FIELD,
House of Commons.
April 2.

Surgeon's hungry allies

From Mr B. J. Rider

Sir, About 60 years ago in Jersey I used to apply leeches to the temple of a friend who at that time suffered from high blood pressure. I found no difficulty in persuading the right end to set to work, even though I was an amateur at the job.

What may interest your correspondents is that the leeches, after saturation, were placed in a salt solution in order to persuade them to disgorge and so be ready and hungry when next required.

Yours faithfully,<

دعا من الامير

Television

Operational hazard

"Won't a cross do?" asks Bruce Anderson as he is asked to sign the consent form for the transplantation of his new heart. He is reacting violently to the anti-rejection drug and his hands are shaking, but he manages the signature and subsides to await the heart and the surgeon, Mr Magdi Yacoub. The former is in Yorkshire; the latter in Italy. Bringing them together with Mr Anderson at Harefield is a complicated logistical exercise. It was 35 minutes late but, in the event, he made his helicopter to Yorkshire and telephoned to say that Mr Anderson's chest could be opened and that he would be there to perform the transplant in an hour and a half. And so he was, with the cardboard box that held Mr Anderson's best hope of life.

Thereafter it was a sanguinary business with some reassurance in Mr Yacoub's verdict that it was a "beautiful little heart". The calm continued even when blood gushed suddenly and alarmingly upwards. "Don't make a mess, please," he said to an assistant.

The Forty Minutes team are to be congratulated on their technique and their stamina. Three, including the producer Louise Panton, were present in the theatre throughout, having scrubbed up like professionals and gone in with their specially sterilized equipment. Mr Anderson, happy, will be seen again in next week's programme pursuing his recovery routine. Scrubbing up on this occasion will not be necessary.

Dennis Hackett

Concert

America personified

BBCSO/Bernstein

Festival Hall/
BBC2/Radio 3Leonard Bernstein's contribution to the bicentenary of America's independence was a work for six voices and orchestra called *Songfest*; it was his portrait of modern America in poetry and music.

It has taken six years to reach London in a live performance (by any reckoning, five years too long). On Wednesday the composer conducted its first performance in Britain, making his debut with the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

The whole concert was relayed on BBC television, and simultaneously matched with the stereophonic sound of Radio 3, so I decided to watch and listen at home, particularly since the interval was to be Bernstein with actors to speak all the fourteen poems set in *Songfest*.Nobody expects avant garde music from Bernstein. His language is showbiz, sometimes pompously folk-orientated as in the first section, sometimes cool jazz. He can write a good ballad, and does so, for female vocal trio (rather reminiscent of Nicholas Maw's *Scenes and Arias*) in *America*.There is a bit of American Armistice music, some black soul, plenty of light-heartedness to leaven the serious lyrical melody which is Bernstein's strength. The orchestral music did not impress as did the vocal music (more than once I heard Bernstein wish that Mahler had composed *The Song of the Earth* for a number of solo singers, though Mahler would have opted for finer textures).Songfest is an honorable, sincere and ebullient occasional piece. It makes its particular points smartly. Television did them proud, as did such singers as Sarah Walker and Thomas Allen, to name but two who evidently comprehended Bernstein's language naturally. It compares rather clearly with Britten's *War Requiem*, not to Bernstein's advantage.

William Mann

London Festival Ballet

27 April-
29 May 198227 April-1 May
THE SLEEPING BEAUTY3-5 May
LES SYLPHIDES

THE STORM

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SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

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TIME OUT

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THE STANDARD

Opera: Giulini's return

Autumnal mastery of Verdi's emotional range

Falstaff

Music Center,
Los Angeles

Carlo Maria Giulini this week returned to staged opera. He has been away for 14 years, indication enough of the depth of his distaste for working conditions in the theatre which made him determined to stay only with concert halls and recording studios. His sixties, the time of life when many opera conductors are at their peak, have passed — or almost passed — with only a recording of *Rigoletto* to represent the lyric theatre. And without that *Rigoletto* there would surely have been no *Falstaff* in Los Angeles. It runs until May 1.

If Giulini has become almost a stranger to opera in performances other than Los Angeles, the home of his orchestra, the Philharmonic, is in exactly the same case. It is several decades since international-level opera performances have been given here. Absence and absence may be good for sharpening the palette, albeit a painful way, and at the end of the performance the audience made it quite clear that they were hungry for opera and for Giulini to conduct it.

For him it was a personal triumph, acknowledged characteristically by only one solo curtain call, a vindication of the decision to take up again almost at the point where he left off. *Falstaff*, for a city deprived of opera, might have been an odd choice, but for Giulini it was the right one. At one point, it was almost his visiting card: it was after all the opera with which he made his British debut, at the Edinburgh Festival. The quicksilver quality of Verdi's score, where almost every section seems to be over before it has even begun, has always been close to Giulini's nature. And it is close too, on Tuesday night's evidence, to the soul of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, which under its present conductor has become a highly refined instrument, delighting in delicacy.

At 58 Giulini brings out the reflective melancholy so often missed in the score. It is an



Renato Bruson's strong, intelligent Falstaff, with Katia Ricciarelli

autumnal interpretation, a fact well realized in Ronald Eyre's staging. The farce has been stifled until the approach to the final fugue and, in its place, there is the wry comedy of an old warrior who knows that his best days are well and truly past. He is, in the shape of Renato Bruson, singing his first *Falstaff*, a solitary figure relying for company on a couple of layabouts, ruffians and mercenaries at the same time, Bardolph and Pistol, by name (Francis Egerton and William Wildermann, both excellent).

It is all summed up in the first scene of Act III with Falstaff, muffled up against the dark Thames within him and without

him, sitting in the courtyard of the Garter. There is even a kennel: Falstaff is quite close to the doghouse. His monologue lists everything: he is growing fat, yes fat; his hair is turning grey. *Tutto declino*. The world and Falstaff together are going to pot. Giulini and Bruson handle this passage superbly, with the rumblings of discontent in the orchestra turning into temporary pleasure as the wine does its work. The key to Falstaff's life is that his pleasures are becoming fewer and fewer — there was an earlier orchestral shiver of delight when Ford opened his bag of gold with the instructions "spendete, spendete".

Falstaff's life is that his pleasures are becoming fewer and fewer — there was an earlier orchestral shiver of delight when Ford opened his bag of gold with the instructions "spendete, spendete".

Bruson has taken on Falstaff at a time when his voice may well be at its peak: most baritones prefer to leave it until later. The role is sung throughout with a fine fastidiousness and great beauty of tone. He is careful to underestimate, even when he emerges in his Act II finery, white clothes and a red ruff, a giant raspberry ripple with his hat stuck like a wafer on the top. The performance could take a little more verbal bite, especially in the opening scene. But a world short of Falstoffs has acquired a new one of strength, stature and high intelligence.

The Ford, Lee Nucci, could be a Falstaff too one of these days. His voice is almost as well shaped and

projected as that of Bruson. But he has been poorly served by his producer, who has turned him into a toothy fellow, the Ken Dodd of Windsor, instead of the jealous and vengeful husband. Indeed the Ford family do poorly and need attention before the production comes rock, stock and full cast to Covent Garden at the end of June. Katia Ricciarelli was oddly ill at ease as Alice, a role which should allow her soprano to soar into the auditorium.

By way of recompense, Los Angeles have come up with a selectable pair of divas in the form of Delmara Gonzalez and Barbara Hendricks. They sing and perform as almost in a childlike dreamworld — much relished by Giulini in the pit — which is infinitely preferable to the bitchy and trickery of their elders, Gonzalez, noted in Paris last winter, probably with his clean, boyish tones, the finest Fenton since Alva.

The production team, from London, of Ronald Eyre and his designers, Hayden Griffin and Michael Stennett, have done a solid job rather than an inventive one. Windsor Forest was more magical and the Garter more evocative, but the Fords are well housed. At few points does the staging go against the conception of human comedy, wry and mellow, which Giulini and Bruson have placed at the heart of *Falstaff*.

Just what persuaded Giulini back is a matter for future biographers. Ernest Fleischman, executive director of the L.A. Philharmonic, must have had an opera as a gleam in his eye when he engaged Giulini as musical director. It is more than that now and he is touring for two or three productions a year in the mid-Eighties. Gunter Breech, who with his DC team is recording all the Los Angeles performances, certainly played his part when *Rigoletto* happened. What matters is simply that the operatic silence has been broken. Covent Garden will hear *Falstaff* in midsummer and Florence will have it in May next year. Both will be excellent places to be at.

John Higgins

Theatre

Laughter too scarce

The Joke Collector

Playhouse, Liverpool

While I have been able to enjoy most of the work of the new company at the Liverpool Playhouse, I have, I must admit, not been able to enthuse; nor has the company won more than a small share of the youthful Liverpool Everyman audience. Meanwhile, a large portion of the old Playhouse audience seems to have disappeared in the take-over by Liverpool playwrights — perhaps to bingo or greyhound racing.

There is something to enthuse about in *The Joke Collector*, which was once a television play called *Tiny Revolutions*, but it needs those full houses that seem to have disappeared. The play is a collection of jokes cut from the body politics of Czechoslovakia. Many of them are delivered as if to the secret police of Czechoslovakia, but they need the steady contagion of laughter which is hard to achieve from scattered spectators.

Michael Beckham's play is based on the real life of Jan Kalina, a Czech professor of humour who ran a satirical cabaret for 30 years before being imprisoned in the political winter that immediately followed the Prague Spring. It uses Kalina's

collection of jokes that satirized the totalitarian regimes of Eastern Europe to tell his story, and the temptation is to retell the jokes to give a taste of the comedy that offended.

Gate, Notting Hill;
Screen on the Green

The World of
Gilbert and George

ICA Cinematheque

Visiting Hours (X)

Classic, Oxford Street

An urgent and chilling conviction



"Circle of Deceit": Hanna Schygulla fraternizing in Beirut

purposes of entertainment, deceit itself. The nightmare The Bruno Ganz character is muddle of the Lebanese civil war is never straightened out in the interests of a conventional tidy narrative; the emotional predicaments similarly retain their complexity. All told, few other recent releases can approach the film for urgency, power and importance.

After Schlöndorff's hurly-burly, one might expect peace and quiet from the World of Gilbert and George, which runs at the ICA Cinematheque until April 24. Gilbert and George, after all, are the British exponents of "living sculpture"; they position themselves in art galleries, impeccably dressed in sober suits. From one standpoint, the duo represent a far-flung wing of cultural aesthetics; the materials of art are simply transformed into its very subject. — and

If their cinematic world were entirely made up of these eccentric bairns and stilted conversations, the film would be comparatively easy to assimilate. But there are other elements involved, and the cumulative result is strangely unsettling. Some of the material is simply impenetrable — like the verbal commentaries hovering just beyond the borders of sense as the camera surveys various flowers or clapped-up food. The hermetic however, is quickly followed by glimpses of the all-too-public, garish, dereliction, graffiti on corrugated iron, a drunk on the pavement. East End youths come before Gilbert and George's camera, trying to describe their own lives. The words have a struggle getting out, but the most popular occupations seem to be playing Space Invaders, watching football, having a laugh and walking the streets. An impression builds up of barren, aimless urban life — though the unsympathetic might argue that Gilbert and George are hardly better employed standing around in art galleries. Still, the world of Gilbert and George, as pinned down on film, is provocative; all collectors of cinematic oddities should pay them a visit.

Last and least is Visiting Hours, a Canadian shocker about a disturbed bulk obsessed with torturing a laughable caricature of a television journalist (played, unfortunately, by Lee Grant, who should know better).

The producers were previously involved in the cheeky nightmares of David Cronenberg (*The Brood*, *Scanners*), but the present director — Jean Claude Lord — shows a flair for boring, rather than scaring, his audiences.

Geoff Brown

"Visiting Hours": Lee Grant — as a television journalist — assailed by Michael Ironside

Major Barbara

Birmingham Rep

In the way of things Major Barbara is always timely. It may no longer be fashionable to think that armaments manufacturers are the masters of the war rather than its servants, as everyone from Bernard Shaw to Leslie Charteris used to suggest; but the manufacture of weapons is still a happy hunting-ground for moralists.

Shaw's subversive comedy strikes out against easy liberal assumptions by making a hero of Andrew Undershaft, the millionaire manufacturer of arms. In his notes, Shaw calls him Saint Andrew Undershaft for preaching that the chief evil of the world is poverty. It is the philosophy of a found-

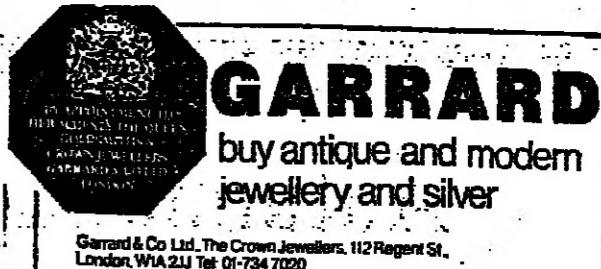
Elizabeth Bell serves admirably in Barbara's uniform, a proper challenge for Bill Fraser's Undershaft, and it is Mr Fraser who makes Peter Farago's production so ruthlessly entertaining. He brings to his speeches a rumbling authority, with growls of restrained power; his hands fill the speeches with unscripted action; stroking Barbara's arms on their first meeting, clasping the hands of his estranged wife with undiminished affection, seizing the soft shoulders of his son with parental firmness. The delicacy of his actions contrasts with his natural bulk to make him always the centre of attention in the needlessly elaborate settings.

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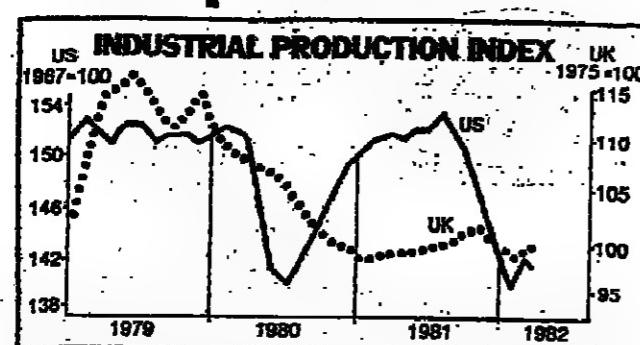
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US output falls



Sources: Federal Reserve Board (Datstream), Central Statistics Office

United States industrial production declined by a seasonally adjusted 0.8 per cent in March, the Federal Reserve Board said. This follows a revised increase of 1.2 per cent in February and a decline of 2 per cent in January. British industrial production rose by 0.6 per cent in February while January estimates were revised upwards. The United States estimate for February was revised down from 1.6 per cent. Output of United States factories, utilities and mines stood in March at 141.2 per cent of its 1967 average, down 7.2 per cent from a year earlier. Production of business equipment declined by 1.2 per cent after rising 0.3 per cent in February, while consumer goods declined 0.5 per cent last month after rising 1.5 per cent in February.

Car makers to meet

Leaders from British and Japanese motor industries will meet in Tokyo on May 26 and 27 to discuss prospects for Japanese car sales in Britain this year and British market demand.

Meanwhile, President Mitterrand of France was to raise the issue of Japan's booming trade surplus in talks with the Prime Minister Mr Zenko Suzuki, yesterday, although he realized that no immediate progress could be made.

World bank dilemma

Members of the International Development Association, the concessional lending arm of the World Bank, have failed to make their agreed contributions of \$4,100m this year. Mr Tom Clausen, World Bank president, said in Lagos, Nigeria, yesterday. Only about \$1,500m has been received so far, he said. Mr Clausen called on governments of countries south of the Sahara to raise prices to farmers to encourage food production, which otherwise would fall seriously short of the region's needs.

Profits slump at News Corporation

Net profits of Mr Rupert Murdoch's Australian-based News Corporation tumbled from A\$3.6m to A\$1.8m (10.8m) in the half year to December 31, reflecting heavy losses in the United Kingdom. These included losses from Times Newspapers, the large trading loss of the newly launched Sunday magazine by the News of the World and heavy investment in the circulation of The Sun. The dividend is unchanged at 5.5 cents.

MARKET SUMMARY

Liquidation hits prices

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 544.8 down 9.6

FT Gilts 86.59 down 0.31

FT Allshares 314.23 down 4.03

Bargains 15,615

Prices fell steadily through the day after the appearance of several large lines of stock, thought to have come from liquidation at one of the leading investment trust groups. Flemings, Touche and Great Northern Investment Trust are all restructuring.

The lines, mostly of the leaders, were placed, but at discounts to the market price. This, fear of further liquidations, and the placing of the Zilkha stake in Habitat Mothercare, at 131 1/4p against 138p on the previous close, all helped to depress the market. The Falklands crisis, worries of further rises in United States interest rates, and the end of the account, all combined to make jobbers wary of taking stocks on the their books, and institutions nervous of buying.

Gilt prices came back on interest rate worries as sterling stayed relatively steady. Shorts were down around 3/8, most mediums lost 5/8, and longs were also around 5/8 lower.

Among the leaders, GEC was down 14p at 792p, Beecham lost 8p at 224p, BP 8p to 262p, Thorn EMI 10p to 420p, Blue Circle 8p to 450p and Plessey 7p to 363p.

Forward Technology rose 11p to 38p, on lower than expected losses. Hawker Siddeley was down 10p to 288p ahead of next week's figures.

COMMODITIES

By the close of business last night it looked as though the brief recovery in metal prices had fallen flat. Cash higher grade copper lost 16 tonnes to 2869, and three months' forward lost the same amount at 2897. Lead, zinc, aluminium and nickel also fell. The only exception among base metals was tin. Purchases by the buffer stock manager helped to push cash metal up by 58 to 17,138 a tonne while three months' gained £10 to 17,372.

Silver, which has recently benefited from the strengthening of gold, fell back. At the button fixing the spot price lost 50 an ounce to 425p, and three months silver shed the same amount to 439p an ounce. Dealers expect that silver will weaken further without support from gold.

Much the biggest advance was made by April cocoa, which gained £20 a tonne to close at £550. But this was largely the result of nearby technical factors, and the May contract was only £1 higher at £573 a tonne. May was light because a major speculative short position was being unwound in New York.

Building societies figures (March); useable steel production (March).

Board meetings — Interims — Berry Trust, Linstrand. Finals — Horace Cory.

TODAY

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BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

Taylor Woodrow results fall short of expectations

f4m setback overseas hits profits

Taylor Woodrow disappointed the market with its final pretax profit figure for 1981. Against expectations of about £26m, an improvement on the 1980 figure of £24.8m, the international construction and property group again announced £24.8m. The dividend is 13.15p net, making the equivalent of 23.26p gross, the same as last year (Sally White writes).

Although there had been fears for developments in Nigeria or the Far East, the City had not been expecting the £4m deficit on the group's share of loss on a road contract in Trinidad. Taylor Woodrow, which is suffering the loss because of work being done by an associate, is pursuing substantial claims on the contractor. The group believes it has made conservative provisions, and will not be drawn at this stage about hopes of any recouping of the money.

Given the wide spread of Taylor Woodrow's international engineering and contracting interests, analysts believe that even in this difficult state of the international economic cycle the group should be able to at least maintain profits. Adding back the £4m, that gives hopes of £28m for this year. The rating would be just over 13 times, which is higher than other building and construction groups because of the property interests.

The company's reaction to questions on the state of business this year sound rather more optimistic.



Richard Puttick: some bright spots

take some time to end up in the pretax profits.

One factor in construction companies' favour is their costs. The depressed state of the industry has forced raw material and plant hire suppliers to offer very competitive prices.

On the property side, investors are still waiting for news of a tenant for Information House which, with its high rate bill, is a drain on Taylor Woodrow.

Initial reaction in the market was to mark the shares down to 500p from 525p, at which level they yield 3.6 per cent.

Smarting from winter shock

Combined English Stores Group, the specialist retailers whose interests include the Harry Fenton menswear chain, Salisbury handbags, the Collingwood jewelry outlets and Mercado carpet wholesaling, brought out final results yesterday that bore the scars of the winter weather (Derek Harris writes).

The United States and Nigeria both have resilient economies, he pointed out. So perhaps it would be wrong to be too gloomy about prospects, even though interest rates continue to be relatively high.

Even in the United Kingdom, where analysts are saying that the Budget moves to boost the construction industry will have virtually no effect on Taylor Woodrow, Mr Puttick refuses to see the picture as entirely dreary.

However, he is looking at the order picture as well as profits, and some of those orders that are continuing to come through will

be taken on board this time £197,000 in expenses and interest costs from the group's latest acquisition, last November, of the Cheshire-based Eurocamp Travel.

Eurocamp's pre-tax profit of £84,000 for 1981, up nearly 40 per cent, has not benefited the group profits this time but will come through in the new first half. Bookings for this year are ahead of last, Mr Gordon said.

"We had high hopes until Christmas. The group is now slimmed down to mainstream activities. We are ready to take advantage of any upturn in consumer spending but business conditions are pretty rough at the moment."

If trading stays tough the group should still produce reasonable profits this year, he added.

At Scrimgeour Kemp Gee, Mr Geoffrey Carr analyst is looking this year to around £2m trading profits, with an addition the group's property dealing operations likely to continue at current profit levels (£1.416m this time to the end of January).

That would mean an earnings per share of 1.7p, with a yield at 37p a share running at 12.7 per cent. "This is a trading stock. Look to sell on a yield of 10 per cent and buy at 15 per cent," Mr Carr said.

There has been speculation that CES may not have finished selling off loss-making operations and the Fenton menswear chain is undoubtedly the biggest remaining problem. But losses have been cut from £1m to half that this past year and CES is looking to a new broom effect from Mr Mark Latham just attracted to run Fenton from his job as merchandise director of Burtons.

Surprise over brick profits

Given the depressed state of the house building business last year, analysts are scratching their heads over London Bricks' 1981 profits, Drew Johnston writes.

The figure touched £11.1m, up 11m on forecasts, and though this is down on pre-recession profits of £14m in 1979, it helped bolster the share price.

The shares rose 14p to 87p before settling down to 86.5p.

Another factor in the company's favour was the increase in dividends from 3.76p gross to 4.5p gross giving an annual 6.98p gross against 6.24p last time, and a yield of 7.2 per cent. Sales were up from £125m to £127m.

Brokers indicate that though the share is closely tied to the housing construction cycle and is likely to move up — to as much as 100p over the next few months — "it is not a stock to be caught in when the music stops".

Unit costs are believed to be substantially down on last year. One awkward factor however is an expected price increase, which has not so far been announced. Another issue is the growing interest of house builders such as Barratt, in timber frame construction. Forecasts for the current year's profits are around £15m.

A subsidiary, London Brick Landfill which fills worked-out clay pits with domestic waste, and

INTERNATIONAL



and legal settlements in France rose to a seasonally adjusted £1.476 in March from £1.342 in February but was below January's £1.708, the National Statistics Institute reported.

HONGKONG

The Financial Secretary, Mr John Brennridge, has lowered his estimate of the 1981 government budget surplus to HK\$6.900m (£560m) from HK\$7.700m. The reason, he said, was because of HK\$800m shortfall in expected revenue.

For the year ended March 31, he said, total revenue was estimated now to have been HK\$34,000m, with spending at HK\$27,100m.

• A four-month declaration from the European Commission will arrive over the weekend for talks on the renewal of the bilateral textile agreement. These discussions are preliminary to the main negotiations in Brussels in June on renewal of the agreement between the EEC and Hongkong.

UNITED STATES

The ailing aluminium industry may push for labour cost concessions from the United Steelworkers Union when for the two sides meet for discussions on April 22. Industry analysts said yesterday.

• Early April sales of American cars fell by 16.2 per cent from a depressed year earlier. The five United States companies sold 133,502 cars in the first 10 days of the month, the fewest sold in the period for 24 years.

FRANCE

The number of unemployed in March stood at 1.97m, an increase of 0.7 per cent from February, according to Labour Ministry figures. The adjusted total for March is 1.84 per cent above that recorded a year ago, and represents roughly 8.5 of the active workforce.

• The European Commission is studying a request from France for a temporary ban on imports of certain Turkish textiles, a spokesman said. France's imports of Turkish under-shirts rose by 87 per cent in 1981 and imports of Turkish shirts by 255 per cent.

• The number of corporate bankruptcies, liquidations

two months of 1981.

Spain

Spain paid \$4,740m (£388m) for imported crude oil in the first two months of this year, 29 per cent less than a year earlier. A total of 7.52m tons were unloaded, compared with 8.8m tons in the first two months of 1981.

• The real

machines are here to accept them in the language. They speak back, not answer, on screen or paper. Many applications computer systems which come from train time advice — rental carry out sp

Electronics around the world are experiencing Internet technology. Japan has recognition of its now famous "Internet" of computers for the Internet. Several British nations, public and private research, are also in the service research. The most advanced country is Log

AULT & WIBORG GROUP

Salient points from the Statement of the Chairman, Mr C. F. Strang.

- Group sales in 1981 totalled £55 million (1980 £53 million).
- Trading profit — before redundancy and closure costs — was £2 million (£2.7 million).
- Pre-tax profit was £120,000 (£1.2 million).
- Following a loss of £565,000 in the six months to 30 June 1981, the improvement in the second half reflects benefits arising from the cost reduction programme and some recovery in trading towards the end of the year.

PAINTS · CHEMICALS · INKS · ENGINEERING

Blagden Industries PLC

Formerly Blagden & Neakes (Holdings) PLC	Year ended December 27th	1981	1980
	£'000's	£'000's	£'000's
Turnover	68,620	60,224	
Profit before taxation	2,006	2,551	
Profit after taxation	1,220	2,732	
Dividends per share	6.0p	8.0p	
Earnings per share	8.5p	17.7p	
Net assets per share	132p	125p	

Prospects:

Having regard to the range of products which we sell to the manufacturing and consumer industries, it is not surprising that we have continued to suffer from the effects of the recession. Whilst 1982 got off to a disappointing start and was much affected by the inclement weather, there are now signs of a slight upturn in business. If this continues we would hope to achieve our more optimistic expectations for the current year.

A. R. Sparrow, Chairman.

The Norwich Union Life Insurance Society

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of this Society will be held at the Society's Offices, Surrey Street, Norwich, on Tuesday, 11th May, 1982 at 11.30 a.m. for the transaction of the following business:

- To receive and consider the Reports of the Directors and Auditors and the Accounts for 1981.
- To elect Directors in the place of those retiring.
- To appoint Auditors and to authorise the Directors to fix their remuneration.

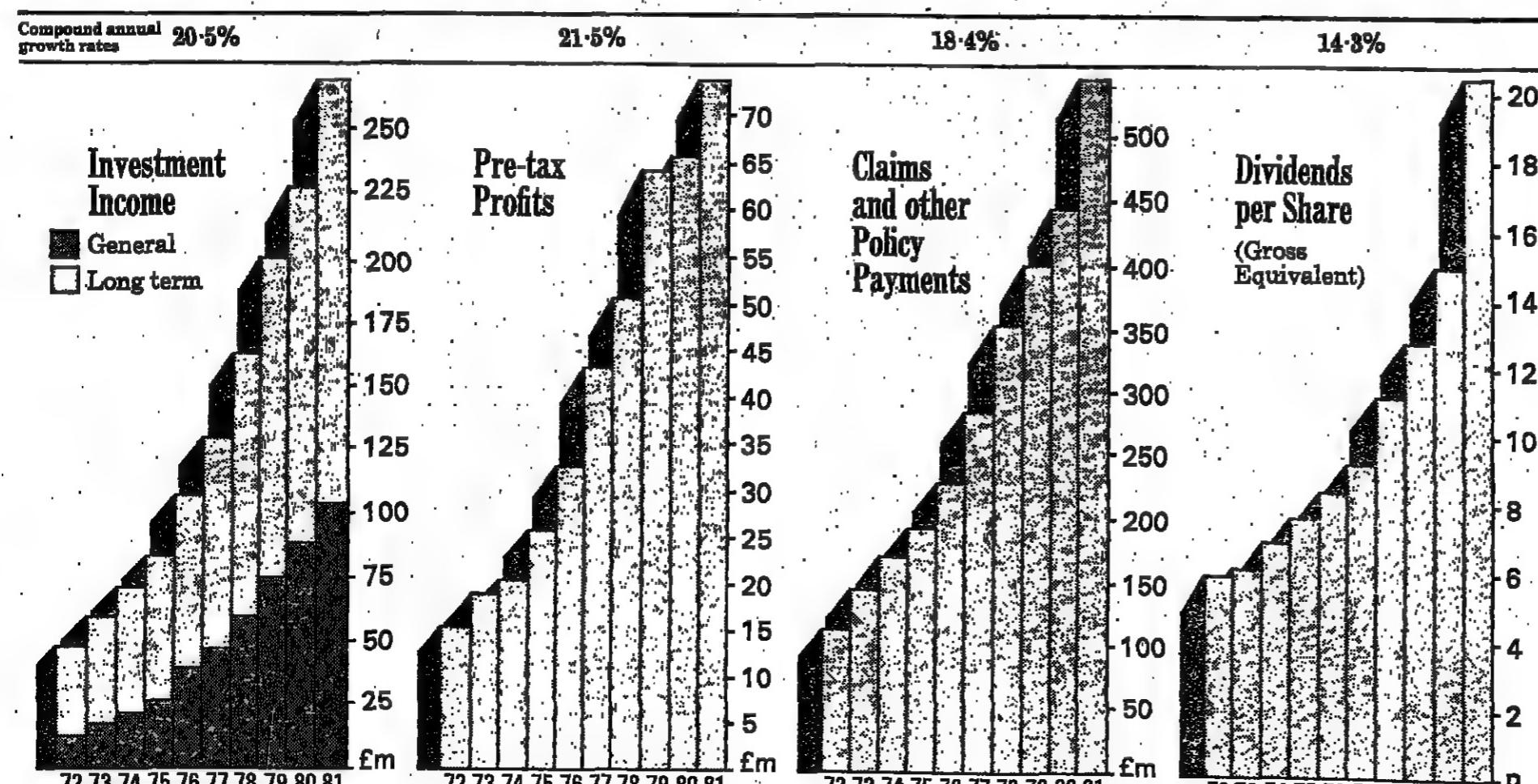
Dated this 14th day of April 1982.

By order of the Board
H. H. SCURFIELD, Secretary
Surrey Street, Norwich.

NORWICH UNION INSURANCE

Eagle Star 1972-1981.

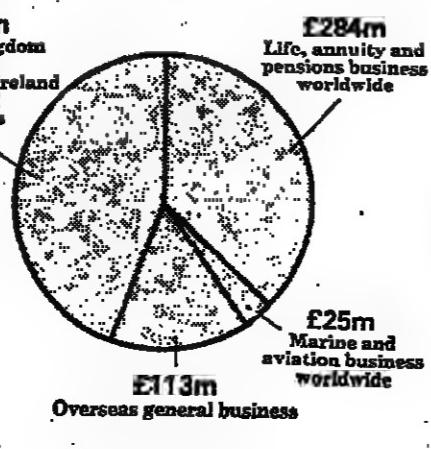
10 years' non-stop growth for the benefit of both policyholders and shareholders



Eagle Star has a record of uninterrupted growth unmatched by any other major British insurance company. Over the past ten years the annual compound growth rate for pre-tax profits has been 21.5%.

For the year ended 31st December, 1981:

- * Surplus before tax and minority interests rose to a record £73.8m (1980: £65.9m).
- * Dividend increased by 43%, from 10.5p to 15p per share.
- * General business investment income totalled £104.2m compared with £88.1m in 1980.
- * General business premium income rose from £442.5m to £477.3m.
- * Free reserves of the group amounted to 87% of general insurance premium income.
- * Life business worldwide produced new annual premiums of £39.7m against £38.8m in the previous year. Single premiums and consideration for annuities rose from £72.1m to £120.0m. Bonuses to policyholders were again a record.



* Grovewood Securities' pre-tax profits rose from £14.4m to £15.8m, a record for the fourteenth successive year.



Commenting on the outlook, Sir Denis Mountain, the Chairman, in his statement to shareholders, said:

"The prospects for continuing growth from investment income, Grovewood Securities and life are all good but the short term outlook for general insurance underwriting must be bleak.

The insurance results for 1982 will be influenced by the overall business environment. The downturn in economic activity has led to a reduction in demand for insurance leading to unprecedented competition for the available business.

We are always looking for ways and means of improving productivity and even greater efforts are being made to achieve this objective."



Eagle Star
for your protection.

For the Annual Report, please contact: The Secretary, Eagle Star Holdings PLC, 1, Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8BE. Telephone 01-588 1212.

مكتبة الامان

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

and legal settlements in France rose to a record 1,476 in February, up from 1,342 in January. In March they were below January's 1,708. National Statistics Institute reported.

HONGKONG

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For the year ended March 31, he said total revenue was estimated now to have been HK\$34,000m, with spending at HK\$27,100m. A four-man delegation from the European Commission will arrive over the weekend to discuss the renewal of the textile agreement. The main negotiations are preliminary to the signing of the agreement between the EEC and Hongkong.

UNITED STATES
The ailing aluminium industry may push for labour concessions from the Steelworkers' Union when discussions on April 26, the two sides meet for the first time, are held.

• Early April sales by UK authorities, despite freezing of Argentinian assets held.

Meanwhile the United Kingdom authorities, despite freezing of assets from companies sold 133,300 in the first 10 days of the month, the lowest total in a period for 24 years.

WEST GERMANY

• German retail sales in February were a fraction up from January to volume growth. In February 1981, compared with January of the previous year, there was a 1 per cent fall in sales, while in January 1980 there was a 1 per cent fall in sales. The latest falls were in food, drink and tobacco products.

SPAIN

• Spanish car sales fell in the first quarter of this year, according to a survey by the Association of Motor Manufacturers. The fall in sales was 1.5 per cent compared with the same period last year.

WIBORG GROUP

• Wiborg Group's sales in the first quarter of this year were up 10 per cent on the same period last year.

Already fearing default on massive loans to Poland and Romania, international bankers are now suffering sleepless nights over their exposure to Argentina. The Falklands crisis has again raised the spectre of a default by a major international borrower leading to chaos in international capital markets.

As the confrontation between Britain and Argentina moves towards its climax, the world's financial institutions, including banks which have lent Argentina £22,000m (£18,000m), are doing all they can to ensure that — if possible — the Falklands confrontation does not upset the world of international finance.

Damage has already been done both to London's standing as a financial centre and to Argentina's creditworthiness by the freezing of Argentinian assets in Britain. But this is insignificant compared to the effects of a default.

Hence the recent visit to New York by Argentine officials to reassure American bankers that Argentina will continue to make payments on its huge foreign debts. Despite suspending payments to banks in Britain as well as the Argentine, the Argentines have indicated they will continue to repay non-British banks in syndicates involving British banks and will make payments into a so-called escrow account in New York as a holding house for payments to British banks. The British banks will not get the money until the dispute is settled, but it would mean that Argentina is prepared to honour its debts.

Meanwhile the United Kingdom authorities, despite freezing of assets from companies sold 133,300 in the first 10 days of the month, the lowest total in a period for 24 years.

• Early April sales by UK authorities, despite freezing of Argentinian assets held.

Lead managers on Argentine loans 1979-81

	No. of loans	Amount (US \$m)
Lloyds Bank	12	725
Amsterdam-Rothschild	4	457
Deutsche Bank	4	339
Citicorp	6	613
Bank of Tokyo	12	283
Midland/Crocker	5	269

Source: Economy Departmental Data

Argentina: fear of default



General Gallier: looking for \$7,000m this year

here and restricting any new credit to Argentina from London banks, stress that they do not want to push Argentina into formal default. Banks in the United Kingdom have \$5,800m worth of claims against Argentina so there is much at stake.

It is doubtful whether Government-imposed restrictions on banking with Argentina have had much effect. Credit to Argentina has dried up but that probably has more to do with Argentina's invasion of the Falklands and the resulting uncertainties than the British Government's clampdown on lending and assets freeze.

Against a background of worsening economic experience in the Latin American continent, Argentina's credit rating had been deteriorating anyway and it has therefore been paying more for its loans.

The delays over the \$200m Eurocredit for Segba, the Argentine electrical utility, and growing list of defections among the banks involved, is an indication of the

reluctance of banks in the present climate to commit more money to Argentina. The Segba loan will be discussed by bankers in New York today and further delay appears certain.

With external borrowing needs of about \$7,000m in 1982 to help service its existing loans Argentina faces serious problems if it is shut off from international capital markets. Its reserves are low at about \$5,300m of which nearly a third is locked in London and the import ban by the EEC will reduce its foreign exchange earnings.

Whatever the outcome of the Falklands crisis, Argentina will continue to suffer. The episode will have thrown a spanner in the works of the hardline economic programme masterminded by Economy Minister Dr Roberto Alemann. The main plank of this was to reduce inflation by cutting government spending and thus the need to print money. But military expenditure to cover the invasion will make it harder than ever to

reduce the government deficit and affect much reduction in the 130 per cent inflation rate of 1981. This will not be overlooked by international bankers if and when the present problem is solved.

The American rather than the British banks are the big lenders to Latin America. But Argentina is an exception and Lloyds Bank especially is deeply involved.

Apart from having 38 branches in Argentina, producing about £10m a year in profits and with a net worth of about £40m, Lloyds has been the lead manager in the syndicated credit field. The table, showing Lloyds as lead manager on 12 loans worth \$755m to Argentina over the past three years, is a useful but imperfect guide of banks' exposure to Argentina; imperfect because lead managers do not necessarily take much of the loans they arrange on their balance sheets.

Instead they often like to collect the management fees for arranging the loan and then syndicate a large part of it to other banks. In some

cases it is conceivable that the lead manager carries practically none of the loan on its own balance sheet.

Nevertheless Lloyds would suffer badly in the event of a formal default, as would Midland with its subsidiary Crocker. According to one analyst's estimate, the exposure of the British clearing banks — ex-Crocker and Lloyds' domestic lending in Argentina — could be between \$500m to \$700m.

Providing Britain and Argentina do not find themselves at war, it is most unlikely that any banking syndicate would decide to precipitate a formal default and ask the agent bank to accelerate the loan as happened during the freeze on Iranian assets. But it could conceivably happen: Lloyds Bank admitted yesterday that payments on some loans were already overdue.

However, even where one bank in a syndicate wants to precipitate a default, it can often be outvoted by other banks involved and for the moment there is no sign of anybody wanting to take such drastic action. As with Poland and Romania, there is too much to lose and little to be gained.

The atmosphere is very different to the Iranian freeze when everybody was grabbing what they could. It's being handled on the basis that there will be a political solution and the banks will be paid," said one international banker.

The Bank of England seems to have played its part with characteristic pragmatism and flexibility trying to reach an accommodation between what was legally possible, the aims of the sanctions and the possibility of damage to British interests.

But the authorities accept that London's reputation as an international financial centre will suffer. Others feel the danger has been overplayed. As one banker said: "Everyone says there would be damage to New York because of the Iranian freeze, I wonder".

Peter Wilson-Smith

Business Editor

Industrial output disappoints

At first sight the latest set of industrial production figures are very gloomy for war to break out in the south Atlantic. Then the probability must be that interest rates would quickly suffer a crisis hike.

Meanwhile, the full March money supply figures are much as expected, with the public sector expected given the disruption caused by snow.

But the January figures have now been revised upwards from the first indications given last month.

But after taking account of the fact that January turns out to have been considerably better than first thought, the latest figures show no signs of sustained recovery yet.

Both January and December were affected by very severe weather, yet the February figures show only a 0.6 per cent rise for total production. Manufacturing output went up by 1.7 per cent in February, a much more healthy performance, but it was still below the level recorded in September and October last year. Only metal manufacture and the food, drink and tobacco sectors recorded big rises.

The pause in recovery is the early part of this year was predictable and predicted. Consumer goods sales are slowing down and restocking shows no signs of getting firmly underway. But prospects for later this year ought to be considerably better. Any world recovery on the back of falling oil prices ought to help our exports, and restocking should be making a significant contribution to demand by them.

The cloud in this otherwise bright sky remains, of course, the possibility of interest rates in the United States staying high.

Markets
Nervous times

Markets showed an understandable lack of interest in yesterday's full money supply figures for the March banking month.

Attention was much more fully concentrated on what was going on across the ocean, and the feeling was distinctly more jittery for some days. Down went sterling, apparently to find official support around the £1.753 level, before subsequently recovering; and up edged interest rates.

In money markets the Bank of England's Band 1 intervention level has remained anchored at 13.25 per cent, but the yield curve out to three months, strongly negative not to go so long ago, is starting to flatten out. That still leaves the Bank plenty of scope to allow rates to edge higher without disturbing base rates, particularly with the seven-day interbank rate still below 13 per cent.

This may be relevant so long as uncertainty remains over the Falklands situation and, perhaps, if the worsened expectations for United States money supply prove correct.

Perhaps this is why an increase of £20m to £186m in profits after extraordinary items was insufficient to persuade the directors to recommend an increase on the total dividends of 22.9 per cent. The company has, over £30m in recoverable ACT to savour once it has fully absorbed Tunnel Cement and Thomas Ward and sees UK profits rising. But one has to be guarded about the overall prospect for 1982.

Experiments in chip chat

TECHNOLOGY:

COMPUTER SPEECH

By Clive Cookson

"User friendliness" is one of the catchwords most favoured by today's computer salesman. It means that people do not need months of training to communicate with the machine.

But all information still has to be fed in through a terminal keyboard — and that is bound to intimidate some one who is completely untrained.

The really friendly machines of the future will have to accept input spoken to them in the user's normal language. They will have to speak back rather than flash answers on to a display screen or to a printed page.

Many of the basic applications foreseen for computers — such as "expert systems" which the public can consult about anything from train times to medical advice — require them to carry out spoken conversations.

Electronics laboratories around the world are currently experiencing a surge of interest in voice technology.

Japan has made speech recognition a major goal of its now famous programme to develop a "fifth generation" of intelligent computers for the 1990s.

Several British institutions, public and private, are also in the forefront of voice research.

The most advanced product demonstrated yet in this country is Logos, a speech

recognition system developed jointly by the Government's Joint Speech Research Unit (JSRU) and the computer firm Logica.

The first commercial version of Logos is due to be delivered next month to British Telecom's Martlesham research laboratory. It will be used in experiments into the recognition of spoken commands over the phone — an investigation that might

lead eventually to BT's electronic telephone exchanges being given a (very limited) capability to converse with subscribers who need help with a call.

Logos has a maximum vocabulary of 2,000 words and can recognize continuous speech at natural conversational pace. However, like all rival systems, it has several limitations.

Firstly, Logos can see its full vocabulary only if the speaker limits himself to the rules of grammar and syntax which the system is programmed to accept. Without the help of these special rules, Logos could not recognize more than 300 words.

But, as a National Semiconductor spokesman said: "We



realize that such devices will not really take off in the marketplace until we have speech recognition to go with synthesis."

The company is reportedly close to developing a speech recognition chip (though it is bound to be very expensive initially and limited to a few words of vocabulary).

Secondly, Logos can see its each individual word, breaking it down into a series of around 10,000 digits and comparing them with model words in the computer's memory. The one limitation of the experimental IBM system is that it still takes 80 times as long to process the words as the speaker takes to inspect.

These first generation devices analyse the sound of the speech recognition was introduced by Threshold Technology, an American company, in the mid 1970s. It and a few rivals have a narrow specialized market where the limitations of a small vocabulary of less than 100 words which have to be

enunciated clearly, one at a time, by a single specified speaker are acceptable. An example is quality control, where the operator uses both hands to examine the goods and his voice to tell a computer the results of the inspection.

Thirdly, Logos can see its each individual word, breaking it down into a series of around 10,000 digits and comparing them with model words in the computer's memory. The one limitation of the experimental IBM system is that it still takes 80 times as long to process the words as the speaker takes to inspect.

However, IBM expects the delay to shrink rapidly as technology improves. Its scientists believe they can build a prototype dictation typewriter within a decade.

when the speaker pauses between each word.

To follow natural speech, where many words run into one another or even get swallowed, complicated the machine cannot rely on pattern recognition alone. It must have a knowledge of grammatical structure, and know which words are more or less likely to precede which others.

Continuous speech recognition is being investigated also by several other groups in the United States, Europe and Japan. In this country, the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in Teddington is working on the basic technology, using a model avionic system (for example, "Set height 20,000ft"). The first commercial fruits of the research will be enjoyed by the 10 British electronics companies which belong to the NPL Speech Recognition Club and have contributed financially to the project.

In the United States, IBM claims the lead. Its researchers are working with a natural vocabulary of 1,000 English words and an artificial rules of grammar and syntax. They have achieved 91 per cent accuracy with trained people speaking at normal pace. One limitation of the experimental IBM system is that it still takes 80 times as long to process the words as the speaker takes to inspect them.

However, IBM expects the delay to shrink rapidly as technology improves. Its scientists believe they can build a prototype dictation typewriter within a decade.

an 85% interest in Furmanite International.

In 1982 the markets in which we operate will remain competitive, but we are confident that our progression will continue. We have never been in a stronger position to meet the challenges of the future.

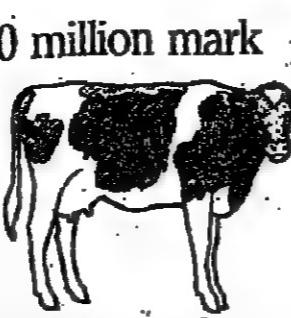
For your copy of the 1981 Report and Accounts, Write to: The Secretary, J Bibby & Sons PLC, Richmond House, Rumford Place, Liverpool L3 9QQ.

In 1981, a year in which world recession proved to be deeper and longer-lasting than forecasters had predicted, few British companies managed to announce new record levels of profit. But at J Bibby & Sons we proved, yet again, that diversification through selected areas, combined with controlled expansion, is a recipe for success that is sound in even the most alien of financial climates.

We achieved record profits — in fact, for the sixth successive year.

Our sales crossed the £200 million mark for the first time — profits increased by 12.59% to £12.184m.

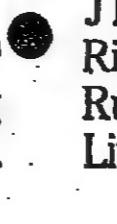
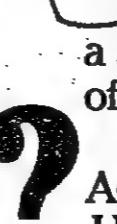
We paid our shareholders more, raising the dividend total by 19.3%. Yet we still retained more than £7m towards our substantial spending



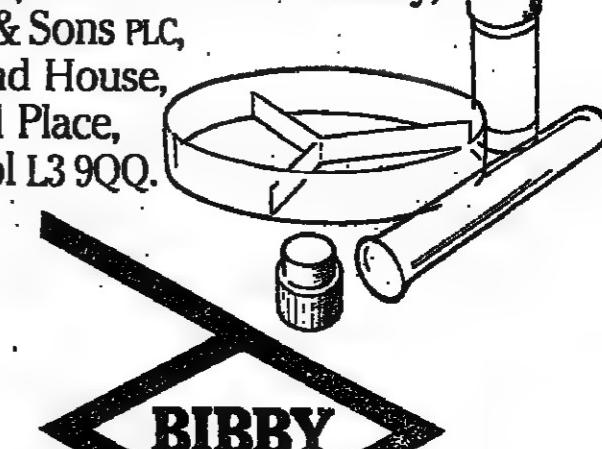
programme to secure our future by improving the quality of the products and services we offer.

And, because of our strong cash flow, we were able to keep borrowings to a minimum, and earn interest on short-term deposits.

We spent more in 1981 — some £8m in all — and our new Industrial Services Division was born with the purchase of



BIBBY



BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

NOTICE OF ISSUE

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the undermentioned Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

EAST ANGLIAN WATER COMPANY

(Originally incorporated in England by the Lowestoft Water, Gas and Market Act 1853, the name of the Company being changed on 1st January, 1962 by the East Anglian Water Order 1961.)

OFFER FOR SALE BY TENDER OF £2,000,000

9 per cent. Redeemable Preference Stock, 1987

(which will mature for redemption at par on 29th May, 1987)

Minimum Price of Issue — £99 per £100 of Stock yielding at this price, together with the associated tax credit at the current rate, £12.88 per cent.

This Stock is an investment authorised by Section 1 of the Trustee Investments Act, 1961 and by paragraph 10 (as amended in its application to the Company) of Part II of the First Schedule thereto. Under that paragraph, the required rate of dividend on the Ordinary Capital of the Company was 4 per cent. but by the Trustee Investments (Water Companies) Order 1973, such rate was reduced to 2.5 per cent. In relation to dividends paid during any year after 1972.

The preferential dividends on the Stock will be at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum and no tax will be deducted therefrom. Under the imputation-tax system, the associated tax credit at the current rate of Advance Corporation Tax (37/ths of the distribution) is equal to a rate of 3½ per cent. per annum.

Tenders for the Stock must be made on the Form of Tender supplied with the Prospectus and must be accompanied by a deposit of £10 per £100 nominal amount of Stock applied for and sent in a sealed envelope to Deloitte Haskins & Sells, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 207, 128, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX marked "Tender for East Anglian Water Stock", so as to be received not later than 11 a.m. on Thursday, 22nd April, 1982. The balance of the purchase money will be payable on or before Tuesday, 25th May, 1982.

Copies of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone Tenders will be considered, and Forms of Tender may be obtained from:

Seymour, Pierce & Co.,
10, Old Jewry, London EC2R 8EA.

Barclays Bank PLC,

61, London Road North, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1LT.
or from the Offices of the Company at 163, High Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk NR32 1HT and
84, York Road, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR30 2LZ.

F J C LILLEY

Looking for worldwide contracts

F J C Lilley, the Glasgow-based civil engineering group which helped to build Hong Kong's mass transit system, London's Green Park station and was involved in the construction of the Victoria underground line is aiming to compete for much bigger contracts world wide.

Expansion at home and abroad — the group has spent around £8.5m in the past two years — has depleted its cash reserves which at the end of last January stood at around £5m.

To finance new major

projects and provide sufficient lines of capital for making more acquisitions, Lilley announced yesterday that it wants to raise £6.15m from shareholders with a one-for-five rights issue of £120p. In the Stock Market, the shares dropped 60p to 160p.

The cash raising accompanied the group's annual figures which for the year to the end of last January, showed pre-tax profits up from £6m to £7.8m on a turnover ahead £27m to £127m. As indicated at the half-way stage, the total gross dividend is lifted 10 per cent to 7.85p with a gross 5.02p final.

The group says that it expects trading to expand in the current year with a satisfactory order book. It has seen an increasing share of business from overseas markets which Lilley says

has to some extent offset the impact of the economic climate in the United Kingdom.

Mr James Aitken, chairman, said the group had not earmarked the new cash for any particular expansion although it intends to pursue a number of new opportunities.

HEWDEN-STUART

Plunge into red

Hewden-Stuart Plant, the Glasgow-based construction equipment hirer, saw pretax profits of £2.9m in 1980 turn into a loss of £54.000 for the year to January 1982.

Turnover was also sharply down at £81m against £96m last time. The company said this decrease was "accelerated by the conscious decision not to pursue volume in the face of uneconomic pricing".

On the stock market, the shares bucked the downward trend by firming up to close at 31p. This was largely due to a decision to maintain last year's dividend at 1.82p gross for the year, Mr Alastair Deakin, the company's finance director, said.

Interest charges fell from 42.2m to 22.9m. Cash flow per share of 9.49p against 14.57p was described as "remaining extremely strong".

The directors have reached the conclusion that the recession has now bottomed out, that the workload of our customers is stabilising, and that inroads have been made into the substantial surplus equipment held by the hire industry which was responsible for the collapse of the rate structure", the company said.

Mr Deakin said that customers' use of equipment had picked up in the first two months of the financial year and that prices were hardening slightly.

The decision to pay this year's dividend out of reserves had been reached after regard to the conservative dividend policy of past years, he said. An additional factor was the positive cash flow and the company's view of the likely trading outlook over the next 18 months.

T. C. HARRISON

Overheads cut

Sheffield-based vehicle and heavy plant leasing group T. C. Harrison produced a 16 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2.883m in the 12 months to December 31, 1981 on turnover which was

fractionally down to £72.515m against £73.83m last time.

Action by the group to cut back on overheads has been the main contributory factor to the improved profits in the midst of a recession reports Mr Edward Harrison, chairman.

A boost to profits was the drastic reduction in interest charges slashed from just under £1m last time to only £163,000.

In spite of adverse trading conditions, Mr Harrison comments that all divisions of the group made profits during the year including commercial vehicles which witnessed a 20 per cent shrinking in the market.

Even in the heavy construction vehicle division, the group produced some commendable results. Profits from the earthmoving section more than doubled from £169,000 to £342,000 over the year agains the background of falling construction activity.

As a result of improved profitability, Harrison's directors are recommending a final dividend of 2.18p a share, a 7½ per cent rise on last year's pay out. Total dividend for the year is 3.1p a share compared with 2.9p in 1980, representing an overall increase of 5.2 per cent.

Earnings per share have advanced from the previous year's 12.66p to 13.03p.

On the current year, Mr Harrison comments that he is unable to predict the outcome but says that results will prove to be satisfactory.

Profits in the first two months of the year are lower than the corresponding period in 1981 because divisions were hard hit by the inclement weather.

BIDS AND DEALS

Cassine Property Group has received detailed planning consent for a £3m shopping development in the centre of South Shields.

Directors of Hemerdon Mining and Smelting think it probable that shareholders will receive the net proceeds of the sale of its proposed tungsten mine outside Plymouth, Mr Sue Schwartzwander, chairman said yesterday.

The option agreement for Bilton (UK) to buy Hemerdon's 50 per cent of the Hemerdon Ball mine for about £5.5m was formally completed yesterday.

Atlantic Resources has reported a significant test result from the Flimby No 1 Well on the Pine Ridge Prospect drilled by the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, has announced its intention to stop selling life assurance in Malta because of the introduction of the Insurance Business Act.

APPOINTMENTS

Sir Henry Chilver has been appointed a director of TR Technology Investment Trust. Mr M. R. Block and Mr A. E. Buxton have been appointed directors of TR Financial Investment Trust. Mr C. J. Kendrick and Mr N. M. McDonald have been appointed directors of TR North America Investment Trust. Mr K. St. Johnston has been appointed to the board of TR Pacific Basin Investment Trust from 1 May. Mr R. J. Ashurst and Mr D. L. Dame have been appointed directors of TR Natural Resources Investment Trust. The Marquess of Tavistock has been appointed chairman and Mr G. C. Musson, Sir Jack Hughes and Mr P. C. Hyde Thomson have been appointed directors of TR Property Investment Trust, while Sir Anthony Touché and Mr A. McDonald have resigned from the board. Mr A. L. McDonald has been appointed a director of TR Industrial and General Trust and TR Trustees Corporation.

Mr Michael J. Brown has been appointed management services director of the London Electricity Board.

Mr Michael Cuddigan, Mr Matthew Windridge, Mr John Fuller, Mr Michael Mahoney and Mr Robert Pack have joined the partnership of Quilter Goodison. Mr Michael Chase has retired from the partnership after more than 40 years with Quilter Goodison and its predecessor firms. Mr Chase remains an associate member of the firm.

Mr John B. Fraser, president of Morgan Grenfell, has joined the board of Morgan Grenfell Co. He will continue to be resident in New York.

Sir James Cleminson, chairman of Reckitt and Colman, and Mr Eugene L. Brady Jr, who is a partner in the New York law firm of Rogers and Wells, will join the board of United Biscuits (Holdings) as non-executive directors at the annual meeting on May 11.

Mr I. W. Maclean has been appointed chief executive of Plessey Office Systems. He succeeds Mr J. E. Donnelly.

Mr John Wilson has been appointed deputy chief executive of KCA International. He will continue to be group finance director.

OVERSEAS COMPANIES

Trading in the shares of Singapore's three largest circulation newspapers has been suspended at the request of the three publishing companies, the Singapore Stock Exchange announced.

Trading of Straits Times Press stock was stopped yesterday. Stock market suspensions involving Sin Chew Jit Poh and Ming Yang Stone Pte, the leading Chinese language dailies, were suspended on Wednesday. No reasons were announced for the suspensions.

Bancomer, S.A., the largest private bank in Latin America, yesterday announced its 1981 results, with a 13.3 per cent increase in profits for the year ended December 31, over those for 1980.

Total assets were \$18.524m (about \$10.232m) while net profits for the year amounted to \$1.565m, compared with \$1.455m and \$1.30m respectively in 1980.

Hoselit UK, a British subsidiary of the West German Hoechst chemical group, will acquire 50 per cent of the share capital of TS Off Services, an Aberdeen-based company distributing chemicals used in oil recovery. The acquisition will be effective from May 1.

Denny's Inc. expects to report a profit of about 30c per share and an earnings per share increase of about 20 per cent for the third quarter ended March 26.

Sales at Denny's, a coffee shop and doughnut house chain, are expected to show an increase of about 9 per cent for the quarter.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank 10%

Barclays 10%

BCCI 10%

Consolidated Credit 10%

C. Hoare & Co. 10%

Lloyds Bank 10%

Midland Bank 10%

Nat Westminster 10%

TSB 10%

Williams & Glyn's 10%

* 7 day deposits for amounts up to £10,000 to £50,000 10%

£50,000 and over 11%

Notes:

1. The consolidated figure.

2. It is expected that the figure will be 11% on March 31 1982.

Current assets

Debtors

Shareholders

Creditors

Net current assets

Number of employees

Net asset value

Capital and dividends

Dividends

Unquoted

Unquoted

Earnings per share

Dividends per

RUGBY UNION

Fears for top-heavy league

By Iain Mackenzie

Scotland's three strongest clubs, Hawick, Gala and Heriot's, are facing the prospect of having to meet each other in the opening weeks of the next league season. Unless there are changes to the proposed fixture list, Gala will play Heriot's in Edinburgh on October 2 and Hawick away the following week. On October 16 Heriot's are due to meet Hawick at home.

The enlarged divisions of 14 clubs instead of 12 were intended partly to ensure that a club which suffered early season defeats would not necessarily be denied of championship contention or facing relegation. Yet if, say, Heriot's beat both their Border rivals they would be through to the title midway through October.

Whoever comes out on top of what will amount almost to an exclusive little three team league will be championship favourites, especially with no return fixtures. All they would have to do would be to beat the lesser oppositions still ahead.

Gala's secretary Alistair Parullo said: "We are not at all happy about the arrangements and we have spoken to the Scottish Rugby Union. I am certain a better system could have been worked out."

A spokesman for the SRU said at Murrayfield: "Regardless of what arrangements are made, some clubs will be dissatisfied. It is not possible to everyone. We have been approached by one or two clubs with dates and arrangements which their representations will be considered; it is doubtful if changes will be made."

Irish pair for Barbarians

By David Hands

Two members of Ireland's triple-crown-winning team, Ollie Campbell and Hugo MacNeill, will play for the Barbarians in their game with Leicester at Welford Road on April 20. The match, originally due to start on Christmas day, was postponed because of the bad weather but does, at least, provide Leicester with a grand climax to their season which, in the last four years, has culminated in the John Player Cup final.

Campbell is supported by the Scarf Roy Landin-bowth are strong contenders for next year's British Lions tour to New Zealand — and has the Wales wing, Robert Ackerman, outside his centre. The pack includes uncapped players, the Englishmen, Rendall Cannon and Simpson, the Swans hooker, Morgan, and an Irelandman, Cart.

TEAM: H P MacNeill (Dublin uni); A Scott (Leicester); P A Anderson (Leicester); D J Johnson (Leicester); G R J Smith (Leicester); D Campbell (Old Belvedere); R J Lockhart (Widnes); P Randal (Wales); J Hardman (Wrexham); I G Jones (Wrexham); P D Morris (Cardiff); G Cannon (Cardiff); D Williams (W Cottenham); N J Carr (Salford); D White (Gateshead).

CYCLING

World event still on course

By John Wilcockson

Press conferences were held in London and Leicester yesterday to inform the world that all was well with the British Cycling Federation's (BCF) organization of the 1982 world championships, despite the dismissal last month of the championship's director-general, John Burns, and the consequent High Court action brought by Mr Burns against the BCF.

Mr Burns is claiming that if his contract had not been broken 20 weeks before the world championships were due to start his company would have received more than £250,000 in compensation.

Yesterday, the new commercial director Alan Rushton of the SportsPlus promotion firm, said that the restructured sales programme was going according to schedule.

He announced three new sponsors, TI Raleigh, TI Reynolds and Le Coq Sportif, while confirming those previously outlined, Selsink and Campagnolo.

With four months to go before the championship opens at Leicester on August 23, Mr Rushton said that 35 countries have entered teams.

RESULTS: 1, M Bocca (Italy-Horned) 84: 42min; 2, J Wimann (Norway-Caprihorn) at 14: 3, P Hagedorn (Belgium-Caprihorn) at 14: 4, S Kelti (Ireland-Sem) at 16.

SKIING

Gunn justifies selection

Boys selected for Scotland's national junior skiing team yesterday confirmed their claim to these places by taking the first three positions in the Scottish junior championship, sponsored by Phillips, held on Cairngorm. Bell, the stalwart in the giant slalom run yesterday on firm snow in a high wind, Graham Gunn of Glasgow, took first place. Nicholas Yates of Glasgow, was second and Kerr Blyth, of Edinburgh, third.

World Race results

The overall results of the Round the World Race sponsored by Whitbread's have now been announced. Barry Pickthall writes: 1, Peter Shepherd (120 days 1hr 42min); 2, G. L. T. (120 days 1hr 49min); 3, Charles Heidrick (113 days 1hr 31min); 4, Simon Turnbull (111 days 27hrs 34mins 35secs); 5, Kieran K (110 days 1hr 42min); 6, Steve (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 7, D. D. O'Farrell (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 8, D. G. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 9, G. J. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 10, E. M. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 11, S. J. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 12, G. J. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 13, D. G. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 14, D. G. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 15, D. G. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 16, D. G. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 17, D. G. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 18, D. G. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 19, D. G. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 20, D. G. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 21, D. G. (109 days 2hrs 50mins 20secs); 22, D. G. 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Today's television and radio programmes

BBC 1

BBC 2

ITV/LONDON

Radio 4

6.40 Open University: Homer: Castle or Cape; 7.05 The Fall and Rise of the Small Baker; 7.30 Drawings of Small Birds at 7.55; 8.30 The West Is Wasteland; Richard Craybire reads from Mortimer and the Sword Excalibur, by Jean Aiken (7); 10.10 Lesser, another story of the West; 10.20 Why Don't You...? Leisure activity ideas from young people; 11.00 Closedown; 12.30 News; 12.57 News headlines. And financial report: Staff Sgt Peabody Mill-at-One: Another of the Living with Leisure features, and Peter Seabrook's gardening column; 4.45 Heads and Tails; 2.05 Go With Noakes; Men, 4.45 Heads and Tails; 2.05 Go With Noakes; 7.35 The Mindful Way: Film about the lives of monks in the monastery of Wat Nong Ba Pong in the forest of north-eastern Thailand (this is an Open University film). Co-starring William Holden, Nancy Olson and Barry Fitzgerald. Directed by Rudolph Mate.

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3.55 Play School: (See BBC 2 at 11.00am); 4.20 Help! It's the Hair Beer Bunch; cartoon; 4.40 Four-piece a Day: Musical documentary about child labour in Victorian England, Web Chris Tranchell, Karen Davies, Webster. 5.35 The Perishers (7).

5.40 News: with Michael Sullivan. 6.00 South East at Six; 6.22 Nationwide, including (at 6.45) Desmond Lynn's Sportswriter. 6.55 Young Musician of the Year: Wind players in the semi-final. You can see the finale next Thursday.

7.30 Odd One Out: New Series begins. It's a word game, hosted by magician Paul Daniels. Of special interest to crossword puzzle addicts! A knowledge show which will be useful. What the viewer has to do is identify the word, sound, or object that does not belong.

8.00 The Enigma Files: Repeat screening of the BBC 2 detective series, starring Tom Adams as the inspector. Tonight, how a new posting almost costs him his life. Co-starring Sharon Mugham and Duggie Brown. 8.50 Points of View: with Barry Took.

9.00 News: with John Simpson. Also the weekend weather prospects.

9.25 Dad's Army: A special screening of an episode in the famous comedy series, as a tribute to the late Arthur Lowe.

9.55 McCann's Law: American-made crime series starring James Arness in the title role. Tonight, one of his friends becomes a victim of a terror campaign carried out against tradesmen by some vicious thugs.

10.45 The Great West Road: Mike Jaeger, an architect, travels along the old London-Bristol road which was once much used by stagecoaches. This is the first of two films.

11.15 News headlines. And weather prospects.

11.20 Film: Better a Widow (1968), Italian-made comedy set in Sicily. Peter McInerney plays the Briton caught up in a tussle between rival wings of the Mafia. Containing Verna, Lisi, Giacomo Perzulli, Jean Sorel, Agnes Sorel, Nino Terzo and Carla Calo. Directed by Duccio Tessari. The film ends at 1.05am.

● THE QUEEN OF ANNAGH (BBC 2, 9.30pm), Terence Hodgkinson's play about a woman and an airman, physically united on a cheerless Scottish island two years into the Third World War, ends on a Promethean note — Le, with the fire. The clever thing about the play is the way this particular moment (or rather the lack of it) is used to underline the importance of modern scientific man when separated from his computerized power base. Mr Hodgkinson has written a war story that is unlike any other I have ever heard.

● THE MISSING MONSOON (ITV, 7.30pm) is a catch-penny title. The monsoon is missing, bright, but only briefly, and though the narration in this Survival Special subsequently makes fitful efforts to bring title and content together, the fact that the rains did not come to the Bharatpur wildlife sanctuary in northern India until the area was beginning to look like the skin of an over-baked potato is secondary in importance to some collateral sequences showing more debauchery, drowning, and squabbling. Towards the end of the film, another subplot begins to nudge its way into the narrative — the old familiar tale of human intrusion into a preserve of nature. But the theme is not developed to any extent. This is a film about what survives more than what perishes.

● TO THE PIER AND BACK (Radio 4, 3.02), Peter Ling's comedy, is one of those plays which end with all the characters united in life-giving laughter. It is a cliché which has stood the test of time, and we should not condemn the device unless it is used to provide an easy, logical way out of an otherwise complex situation. Mr Ling's play about two spinster sisters who disrupt their quiet seaside lives has an unpredictable outcome. It happens to end in laughter, but it might equally well have ended in tears.

● Best of the rest of today's radio: a repeat of Ronald Hayman's assessment of a major playwright in THE QUALITY OF MERCER (Radio 3, 9.10pm) and a Mozart and Schubert recital by the Amadeus Quartet (the Mozart K465, and the Schubert Quartet in G) on Radio 3 at 7.30 and 8.20pm.

10.45 Close: Tim Rice reads a favourite poem.

6.40 Open University: the subjects this morning are, at 6.40 Intermediate Mathematics; 7.05 Palaeontology and Geobiology; Times; 7.30 Quantum Theory and Atomic Structure, Open University transmission and at 7.55 Nothing then until Play School at 11.00. This morning's story in Ruth Silcock's Poem and Song, Book 12: Once Upon a Time; Peter Davison and The Golden Fish; 12.30 Our Incredible World: Lovely and dangerous insects; 1.00 News from ITN; 1.20 Themes Area news; 1.30 About Britain: Big Winters' End. A spectacular bonfire in the Snowdonia winter-Hogmanay festival; 2.00 Afternoon Plans: Among today's items Malcolm Messel, the obit, talks to Simon Reevs, and performs some favourite works; 2.45 Film: Union Station (1950) Thriller about the kidnapping of the blind, 10-year-old daughter of an industrialist. Co-starring William Holden, Nancy Olson and Barry Fitzgerald. Directed by Rudolph Mate.

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7.30 Weekend Outlook: Open University preview.

5.40 Film: Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Code (1940) Masters and the Rabbithole and the three crucial music boxes. Last of the series. 6.50 Something Else: New series. Young jobless people in East Lancashire find a new direction in life. The bands are Squeeze and The Stargazers.

7.35 One Hundred Great Paintings: John Jacob on Daumer's Ecce Homo.

7.45 News: with sub-titles.

7.50 Gardeners' World: Parpering for the planting out of tomatoes and chrysanthemums.

8.15 Newsweek: The proposition is: by spending more, we can find our way out of recession. Steve Bradshaw test the theory.

8.50 Mama Don't Allow...: Country stylized comic from Roy Clark, Pete Sayers, Terry McMillan and Rose Marie.

9.30 Playhouse: The Queen of Annagh, Drama, by Terry Pratchett, set in a farmer's penitentiary colony for intellectuals of the counter-Scots in the Third World War. With Diane Fletcher, Eamonn Boland.

10.05 Scoop: Questions the week's news are put to Griff Rhys-Jones, Jane Walmsley, Henry Kelly and Glynis Gardiner. The question master in Richard Stilgoe.

10.35 Poems in their Places: Ray Smith reads John Clare's "I am: yet what I am..." and Dr Kerith Trick, a psychiatrist, talks about the "peasant poet" who, for 23 years, was a patient in a Northampton lunatic asylum. The poem is one of the finest accounts of dejection in the English language.

11.15 Survival Special: The Missing Monsoon. Film about how wildlife survived when the national park in Rajasthan, India, was hit by one of the worst droughts in living memory.

8.30 News: with sub-titles. 10.00 Film: Union Station (1950) Thriller about the kidnapping of the blind, 10-year-old daughter of an industrialist. Co-starring William Holden, Nancy Olson and Barry Fitzgerald. Directed by Rudolph Mate.

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10.45 Close: Tim Rice reads a favourite poem.

9.30 Rocket Robin Hood: cartoon; 9.45 Wild Canada: the natural wonders of Labrador (r); 10.35 Michel's Mix-up Bird: The composer Michel Legrand and the injured bird he nursed (r); 11.25 Pain Along with Nancy: Nancy Koniakoff and plant painting (r); 11.55 The Bubbles; 12.00 Song Book 12: Once Upon a Time; Peter Davison and The Golden Fish; 12.30 Our Incredible World: Lovely and dangerous insects; 1.00 News from ITN; 1.20 Themes Area news; 1.30 About Britain: Big Winters' End. A spectacular bonfire in the Snowdonia winter-Hogmanay festival; 2.00 Afternoon Plans: Among today's items Malcolm Messel, the obit, talks to Simon Reevs, and performs some favourite works; 2.45 Film: Union Station (1950) Thriller about the kidnapping of the blind, 10-year-old daughter of an industrialist. Co-starring William Holden, Nancy Olson and Barry Fitzgerald. Directed by Rudolph Mate.

4.15 Road Runner: cartoon; 4.20 Razzmatazz: Pop music show, with Kim Wilde, Squeeze, and the Kingworth Sword Dancers.

4.45 Frightmare: A Devon shore survey; making scenery for a model railway; and a way to measure bubble-gum bubbles.

5.15 Film Fun: Derek Griffiths continues the story of Warner Brothers cartoons. Today: Porky Pig, the studio's first big cartoon star.

5.45 News: 6.00 The 6 o'clock Show: Amusing news stories and the more serious ones are mixed in this lively, live programme, linked by Michael Aspel and Jane Street-Porter.

7.00 Family Fortunes: The Hansons from Llandudno take on the Goodwins from Seaton, in Devon. The MC is Bob Monkhouse.

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9.00 We'll Meet Again: The squire's wife (Suzannah York) spends an evening with the American major (Michael J. Shannon). Her angry daughter (Lisa McLaughlin) decides to visit her crippled father (Ronald Hines) that her mother is having an affair. Her actions are, however, motivated by jealousy as much as anything else.

10.00 News from ITN.

10.30 Benson: First in a new batch of comedies about the black butler (Robert Guillaume) in a white governor's residence.

11.00 The London Programme: Rotten Estates. What is being done to improve the squalid conditions in some of London's enormous housing estates caused by crime, vandalism and the failure of councils to carry out essential repairs. We visit estates in Lambeth, Lewisham, Ealing and Hackney.

11.35 Dolly: new series. Country music from Dolly Parton, Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris.

12.05 Bizarre: allegedly adult entertainment from the US.

10.45 Close: Tim Rice reads a favourite poem.

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12.35 Close: Tim Rice reads a favourite poem.

6.00 News Briefing: 6.10 Farming Today; 6.25 Shipping Forecast.

6.30 Today, Including 6.45 Prayer for the Day, 7.00, 8.00 Today's News; 8.30, 9.30 News Headlines; 9.45 Thought for the Day.

8.43 The Richard Slope Letters; 9.57 Weather, Travel.

9.30 Kaledoscope: Arts magazine. 9.55 Weather.

10.00 The World Tonight: News. 10.35 The Week in Europe: a cultural review of the week's news.

11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "The Awakening" by Kate Chopin.

11.15 The Financial World Tonight: The Financial World Tonight.

12.00 News: Weather.

12.15 Shopping Forecast: **WIF:** With II above except as follows: 6.25-6.30 Weather; 6.45-6.55 Travel; 6.55-7.00 Down Under; Rod Harris with comedy, quizzes and music for children; 1.55-2.00 Programme News; 5.50-5.55 PM (continued). 11.00-12.00 Study on 4.

12.00 News: Weather.

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9.30 Youth Orchestras of the World Concert: Corolla, Gordon Jacob, Sarasate, Messing, John Thaw, David Lloyd Wright.

3.20 Flute and Harp/Chord Recital: Giovanni Platti, Michel Blavet, Bach.

4.00 Choral Evensong from Worcester Cathedral: 4.55-5.00 Mass for Pleasure; 5.00 Many for Pleasure; 5.15 Short Story by Chekov.

7.00 Mozart and Schubert String Quartet: recital direct from the Broadcasting Centre, Birmingham. Part 1: Mozart; 7.30 Night. Poetry readings.

8.00 Concert Part 2: Schubert? Concert Part 2: Schubert?

9.30 Quality of Mercy: Ronald Hayman's comedy. David Mervin, director, with contributions to contemporary theatre and cinema.

9.50 20th-Century Music for Strings: Concert: Bartók, Webern, Szlezák; 11.00 News.

11.00 News: Asian Nova Three ballads by Gherardini da Firenze; 11.15 News about Britain; 11.20 News about the Asking; 11.45 Queen Rosalind; 1.00 World News. 5.55-5.55 Seminars and Education Policy. 6.35-6.45 Vivaldi Madama; 11.40pm-12.00 Review of the British Press; 1.15 The World Ahead; 1.30 Gloria; 1.45 News.

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Teachers' unions split as NUT bans cane

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The anti-caning bandwagon received another firm push yesterday when the National Union of Teachers (NUT) became the first teachers' union to take a firm stand against the use of corporal punishment in schools.

At the union's annual conference in Scarborough, delegates representing more than half the teachers in England and Wales, voted by a large majority against the advice of their executive to campaign for the abolition of corporal punishment in schools within the next two years.

At the same time, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UWT) voting at its annual conference in Blackpool for a motion reaffirming its view that corporal punishment should continue to be used "at the discretion of teachers".

Two months ago, the European Court of Human Rights put a question mark over the legality of the continued use of corporal punishment in Britain when it ruled that parents had the right to choose in the light of their philosophical convictions whether their child should be beaten at school.

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A few weeks later, the Richard Foster, the deputy general secretary, said: "In certain circumstances corporal punishment may amount to treatment contrary to Article 3 of the Convention on Human Rights."

The circular related not to the European Court decision but to an earlier out-of-court settlement under which the British Government agreed to make an ex-gratia payment of £1,200 and £1,000 legal costs to an English mother who had complained to the European Commission of Human Rights that her daughter had been so severely beaten at school that the act constituted degrading treatment or punishment and as such contravened Article 3.

The National Association of Head Teachers, which represents two-thirds of heads of state schools, said it would continue to support members who wished to use corporal punishment in their schools or intend to do so. A further 18 are considering abolition, and the Government has recommended that it should be phased out in Scottish schools within the next two years.

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Conference reports, page 3

Horowitz to play in London

Vladimir Horowitz, often described as "the greatest pianist alive or dead", is to give his first European concerts for 30 years in London next month (Robin Young writes). Now aged 77, Horowitz attended a press conference in New York to announce the dates. His first concert, at the Festival Hall on May 22, which will be attended by the Prince of Wales, will be in aid of the Royal Opera House Development Appeal.

Mr Peter Gelb, Horowitz's manager, said yesterday that the pianist had overcome his legendary dislike of extended travel only because he was intrigued by Concorde.

Horowitz has not decided his programmes for the concerts, but he said the first is likely to include Schumann's *Kinderszenen* in honour of the Princess of Wales's forthcoming baby. The performance will be televised by the BBC. The second recital will be at the Festival Hall on May 29.

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Mr Baker said he had suspected the invasion was to be way 12 hours before the troops landed. "But there were a number of us who still thought that there would not be an invasion, even though we knew that forces were

massing. I still think it was a reasonable thing to come and go as you can imagine with a military occupation there are a number of areas which people can't go into. There is what you might call passive resistance. They (the islanders) are very cross indeed."

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Islanders arrive in Britain

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